

®



Accent

An Avila University Publication

SPRING 2016



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Avila University is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Alumni and Friends,

This year, Avila University celebrates its 100th anniversary of preparing students for responsible lifelong contributions to the global community. As we celebrate our accomplishments over the past century, I am reminded more than ever how much our future is built on our past.

Avila's rich history has been formed by the incomparable charism and leadership of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. From the College of St. Teresa's first president, S. Mary Irene O'Hara, to Avila's Provost Emerita S. Marie Joan Harris, these women have instilled in the Avila community and beyond, the importance of education, seeing the world through the lens of right relationships, and serving the dear neighbor without distinction. They have shared their calling with every student, alumnus, faculty and staff member that have stepped foot on our campus. They've educated thousands to carry forward this mission in their daily life.

You see, as much as you are a part of Avila's past, you are also a part of our future. Avila's mission and the charism of our founding Sisters carries forward in you. It is ever present in the accomplishments of our alumni, students, faculty and staff. It can be seen throughout this issue of Accent, from senior

Jasmine Calhour's service to our world in need, to alumna Jean Buchanan's '76 generosity to support teaching peace and nonviolence, to Dr. Ken Parson's and Dr. Carol Coburn's development of a global curriculum for cultural diversity, to our students and alumni participating in Mission 100 and Dear Neighbor Day, to recognition of notable individuals and organizations that have helped make Avila what it is today.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet have taught us to be responsive to a world in need. Our alumni have answered the call. Avila graduates are distinct because of this. It has been true for 100 years, and will carry forward through our students and alumni during our next century of education. Please join me this year in celebrating the pride and distinctive calling of a graduate of St. Teresa's College, the College of St. Teresa, Avila College and Avila University.

With gratitude,

Ronald A. Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA
President



*President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA,
and First Lady Suzanne Slepitz*

*"The Sisters of
St. Joseph of
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— President Ron Slepitz



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As we celebrate our 100-year anniversary, alumni magazines over the past 40 plus years have been pulled from the archives to celebrate key milestones. This spring 1974 edition featured history professor S. Martha Smith, CSJ, with her mother and alumna, Anna May Hogan '24 on the cover as 1974 Homecoming honorees. 



- 02** Accent on Avila
- 07** 100 Years of Avila University
- 11** Feature: University Notables
- 26** Faculty Accomplishments
- 27** Future Healthcare Leaders
- 28** Transformational Learning
- 30** Creative Arts
- 33** Global Community
- 36** Heritage, Spirituality & Service
- 37** Alumni News & Events
- 42** Eagles Athletics
- 44** Class Notes
- 47** In Memoriam
- 49** Avila Heritage



The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Avila University celebrate milestone anniversaries in 2016.

2016 is a year of celebration! This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in Kansas City. The impact they have made on the Kansas City community includes founding St. Teresa's College, now Avila University, 100 years ago.

At the 40th annual Steer Dinner and Auction in February, more than 35 Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet led the audience in singing and toasting in honor of these special anniversaries.

To learn more about the 100-year history of Avila, please see page seven. 📖



Sisters at the ground-breaking for St. Teresa's four-year college, June 5, 1940.

Alumni Paying It Forward

After nine months of development by a Board of Counselors and Alumni Board task force, the Avila University Alumni and Student Mentoring Program launched in the fall semester of 2015 with a "speed mentoring" workshop, allowing students and alumni to find a win-win mentoring partnership.

The purpose of the mentoring program is to connect Avila alumni with students to provide a trusted guide who can listen and offer support to assist students in reaching desired personal and career goals. Mentors coach mentees to develop networking opportunities, build relationships and learn about careers to be more prepared for life after graduation.

Students and alumni are matched based upon areas of interest, work experience and degree programs. Participants work together for one semester with the option to continue meeting for additional semesters. At the end of the semester, both participants have an opportunity to provide feedback on their experiences and suggestions to continue improving the program. 📖

If you are interested in learning more about the program or want to sign up to be a mentor for the fall semester, please contact Bailey Carr, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund, at bailey.carr@avila.edu or 816.501.3780.



President Slepitz, city leaders and students cut the ribbon for the Santa Fe Trail extension.

Forging Paths

Avila University Hosts Santa Fe Trail Extension Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Avila University President Ronald A. Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, joined 6th District representatives, including Kansas City Councilman Scott Taylor, Kansas City Councilman Kevin McManus, Public Improvements Advisory Committee members, and others from Kansas City Parks and Recreation, 3-Trails Village Community Improvement District, Red Bridge Homes Association, Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association and National Frontier Trails Association to celebrate the completion of a 1,500 foot extension of the Santa Fe Trail along Wornall Road with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The trail now extends from the southern end to the northern end of Avila's campus. The project was made possible

by support from the Kansas City Public Improvements Advisory Committee.

The Santa Fe Trail is America's first international commercial highway and was one of the nation's great routes of adventure and western expansion for nearly 60 years. The recent completion of this portion of the trail symbolizes Avila's ongoing commitment to preserving the historic Santa Fe Trail heritage, while nurturing our value to serve the dear neighbor.

During his remarks at the ceremony, President Slepitz said, "The completion of this project represents a campus community that is connected. This extension will allow future generations to continue to celebrate a rich part of our Kansas City heritage." 📸

Introducing the new Avila.edu!



We are proud to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website. It has been designed with YOU – alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students – in mind.

Things you will love about the new site include:

- **MOBILE OPTIMIZATION** With the new avila.edu, you will now have the same web experience on your phone and tablet as you do on your desktop. The new, modern design is crisp and easier to navigate.
- **FEATURED EVENTS** Getting involved and returning to campus is easier than ever! Upcoming University events are featured on the homepage for your convenience.
- **CLASS NOTES** Easily update your alumni profile and submit a class note for yourself or a classmate.
- **REUNIONS** Find all the information you are seeking about class and affinity reunions in the Alumni & Friends section of the website. 📸

Alumna Gives \$1 Million for Peace



ABOVE: Bill and Jean '76 Buchanan with President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA

Jean Buchanan '76 is a passionate advocate for peace and nonviolence. In December, Jean and her husband, Bill, donated \$1 million to Avila University in order to develop peace and nonviolence activities on campus. Jean's hope is that by teaching nonviolence, by permeating the culture of the University with an emphasis on peace, we will see a day when nonviolence is the norm.

"We are excited to be involved with the leadership role taken by Avila and the Sisters of St. Joseph to foster a just and peaceful world. Our intent is to help motivate individuals to practice nonviolence toward themselves, one another, and the earth and its inhabitants," said Jean.

With their support, Avila will incorporate a unit on peace and nonviolence in the First Year Seminar, establish the Buchanan Activist-in-Residence program and hold a Buchanan Peace Summit. The Buchanan Activist-in-Residence will bring an activist or scholar to campus each year who is active in the realm of peace and nonviolence. This individual will speak to classes and student groups, provide faculty/staff development opportunities and serve as a resource and conduit for student action projects. The Buchanan Peace Summit will feature a significant speaker involved in the peace and nonviolence movement and also incorporate students' reflections and involvement, beginning in 2017.

"I am moved by Jean's dedication to peace and nonviolence, and her dedication to make a difference in the world. I believe this support will influence an entire generation of students – and I can only imagine the impact they will have on the world," said President Slepitz. 📸

Regional Science Bowl

Held at Avila for Both Kansas and Missouri

For the second year in a row, Avila University hosted the Regional Science Bowl for Kansas and Missouri. The Science Bowl is a high-energy competition in a quiz show format that aims to get students excited about science and math, and to inspire them to pursue careers in these fields. Teams race to answer questions on biology, chemistry, earth and space sciences, mathematics and computer science. More than 250 students from 25 high schools in Kansas and Missouri gathered on campus on March 5, 2016, to compete for the coveted title of Kansas City Regional Science Bowl Champion and a trip to nationals in Washington, D.C. Avila is one of 67 regional science bowls hosts across the country. 📸

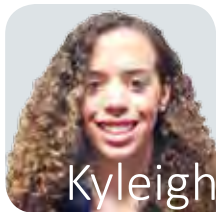




Sean



Grace



Kyleigh



Matthew

First Year Student Reflections

The First Year Experience at Avila includes participating in the Common Reading Program, where first-year and transfer students read a selected book and examine the topic throughout their first semester. Each student writes a reflection paper highlighting their experience during the course. As part of the Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series, Avila invites students and community members

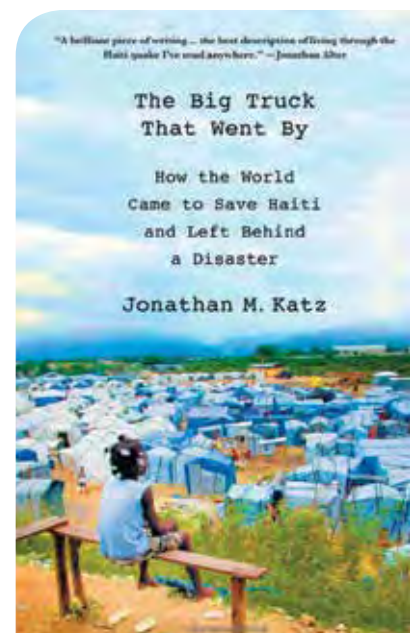
to meet the author and experience the topic firsthand. At the end of the course, a collection of the student reflection papers are published in "Helping the Dear Neighbor: Student Reflections." The 2015 Common Reading selection was "The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left a Disaster Behind" by Jonathan M. Katz. Below, a few students reflect on their experience and learning.

SEAN THOMPSON: *"This experience made me think about how certain people in the world are called upon by God to help and aid others."*

GRACE TIBBETTS: *"First Year Seminar has really given me a new passion to explore the world, learn about other people and cultures, and just set out to learn more before trying to fix everything."*

KYLEIGH ZOLTEK: *"This class enabled me to have an in-depth look at the needs of those in poverty. ... I am more appreciative of my blessings and I am moved to do more to help those in need."*

MATTHEW SNELL: *"Altogether, this experience did change how I view poverty, disasters and especially the developing world. What Avila has taught me is that we need to listen to those in need."* 📖



2016 Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Save the Date: October 20

In conjunction with Avila's 100th year, the Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture will focus on the CSJ values of social justice and civil rights. Carolyn Maull McKinstry will be on campus October 20, 2016, to discuss her book, "While the World Watched: A Birmingham Bombing Survivor Comes of Age During the Civil Rights Movement." Panel presentations, activities and receptions will be offered to explore these issues.

McKinstry's book has been selected as the 2016 First Year Common Reading. Students will read the book and write reflections as part of First Year Seminar, which culminates with the lecture. Join our students in reading the book this summer and save the date to meet McKinstry on campus this fall. 📖

More Than Our Namesake

As an alumna of the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University, Jeanne Collins Thompson '54 was inspired by the writings and prayers of St. Teresa of Avila, the first female Doctor of the Catholic Church and the namesake of Avila University. Jeanne carried forward this inspiration to her 11 children to love God and the dear neighbor and recited St. Teresa's prayers to them often. Therefore, when it came time to add a statue of St. Teresa on Avila's campus, it's no surprise that her children wanted to support the project in memory of her and their father, Byron G. Thompson, Sr., who passed away in August 2015.

On October 26, 2015, not long after the Feast Day of St. Teresa, the Thompson family, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, D.D., of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, Sisters of St. Joseph, trustees, alumni, students, faculty and staff watched as the bronze statue was unveiled and dedicated.

"It's fitting as we approach our 100th anniversary that we dedicate this work of art that represents our namesake, St. Teresa of Avila," said President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA. "It's even more meaningful that this work honors the legacy of Jeanne Collins Thompson and Byron G. Thompson, Sr., who both taught the values that Avila holds so dear. I'm



"In this house, all must be friends, all must be loved, all must be held dear, all must be helped."

— St. Teresa of Avila

grateful to the Thompson family for their generosity that will inspire students for generations to come."

The breathtaking statue stands as a welcoming beacon between Blasco Hall and Goppert Theatre, and was sculpted by artist Charles Goslin, 84, of Shawnee, Kan. Goslin is a former Hallmark artist and graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute. The statue was more than a work of art to

Goslin; it was a calling. He researched St. Teresa to discover who she was and how she served God. "That's why she is reaching toward the dove, which symbolizes the Holy Spirit. She was seeking the help of the Holy Spirit, she found it in her heart and then she shared it with others. I feel like the same experience that she had, all of us can have." 🕊

100 Years: A Century of Inspiration



As we celebrate our centennial year, we commemorate our rich history as an institution that has produced distinct graduates called to make a difference. From the humble origins of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet serving the dear neighbor without distinction, to the promise of what lies ahead during our next 100

years – Avila University was, is and will continue to be rooted in the mission and values of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. It is this that will allow Avila University to continue to provide a high quality, liberal arts education that will inspire students for the next 100 years and beyond.

1910s

1916

St. Teresa's Junior College began classes on the campus of St. Teresa's Academy at 55th Street and Main Street. It began with the mission to provide young women in Kansas City a Catholic college education. The two-year junior college began classes in September and faculty outnumbered students, 11 to seven.

1920s



1921

St. Teresa's College was accredited by the University of Missouri.

1930s

1930

St. Joseph Hospital's School of Nursing became affiliated with St. Teresa's College. This affiliation increased enrollment from 36 students to 206.



1931

A new student publication, *The Teresian*, began.

ST. TERESA'S COLLEGE GUILD
Presents
Miss Franklin D. Roosevelt



1937

Eleanor Roosevelt, former First Lady of the United States, spoke at Municipal Auditorium on November 14 at the invitation of St. Teresa's College Guild. 15,000 tickets were sold and proceeds went to furnishing the library.



1918

Margaret O'Rielly became the first graduate of St. Teresa's College.

1923

The Gleam, a literary magazine for St. Teresa's Academy and the Junior College, was started by students and published quarterly until 1928.

THE GLEAM



WINDMOOR

1935

The official college seal was designed by Mary Finney Black, a member of the class of 1935. At the center of the seal is an open book symbolic of St. Teresa of Avila inscribed with her words, "Deo Adjuvante Non Timendum", meaning God helping, fear not. A lily above the book is the emblem of St. Joseph and the triangle that surrounds it signifies the Holy Trinity.

1939

The plan to expand to a four-year college was approved.



1940s

1940

A group of women's society members for new 1940 full-time baccalaureate.



1941

The four-year college was established and St. Teresa's Junior College changed its name to the College of St. Teresa. • The Donnelly Hall cornerstone was laid on February 16, the Feast Day of St. Teresa of Avila.



1942

The first commencement ceremony of the four-year college took place on June 3, graduating four individuals.

1946

The College of St. Teresa was accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

1947

Margaret Truman was received on campus for tea, as well as to sing; 500 guests attended the event.



1948

The College of St. Teresa became the first in Kansas City to offer a baccalaureate nursing program after the St. Joseph's Hospital nursing program was transferred to the college.



1950s

1952

The first males (women were accepted) in part-time, evening students.

1953

A noncredit adult education program began. Approximately 400 students signed up for the 20 offered courses.

1954

The Arston Award for outstanding graduating seniors was established. The first recipients were Jeanne Collins-Thompson '54 and Jean Cannon Jordan '54.

1955

Harold Logsdon, the first part-time male graduated from the College of St. Teresa with a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

1962

Groundbreaking for the new campus took place on November 21.



1963

The College officially changed its name to Avila College on January 10 to differentiate itself from St. Teresa's Academy high school. • Classes began on the new campus in O'Reilly Hall in September, regardless of the fact that construction was only 70 percent complete.

1964

Groundbreaking for the student center, Marian Center, and the first residence hall, Carondelet Hall, took place on April 10.

1960s

1960

The college announced the acquisition of nearly 50 acres of land at the northeast corner of Santa Fe Road and Wornall Road for the new campus. This was made possible through the generosity of Margaret O'Reilly (the first graduate) who, upon her death, bequeathed her estate to the College on the condition that it be used for capital improvements.

1965

Blasco Hall and Marian Center were dedicated. • Changes in customs and rules of religious orders inspired by the second Vatican Council prompted a number of sisters to return to their birth names and transition from the traditional habit in favor of a modified habit or secular dress.

1967

Foyle Hall was completed. It was built to resemble the first convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Carondelet. • Avila's Montessori school opened. • Norman Gordon joined the Board of Trustees as the first lay member.



1969

Avila College admitted its first full-time male students and became fully coeducational.

1970s

1970

The second residence hall, Ridgeway Hall, was completed. • Vita Goppert joined the Board of Trustees as the first lay female member.

1971

Former President Harry S. Truman gave formal approval to offer a lecture series to the community in his name. David E. Bell, vice president of the Ford Foundation and Truman's first administrative assistant, delivered the first Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture on campus.

1972

Avila Alumni organized their first major Homecoming activity. • Male students lived on campus for the first time. • A formal campus ministry program began on campus. • The first full-time male students graduated.



1975

Bill Waris became the first Athletic Director.

1977

Groundbreaking for the Hooley-Bundschu Library took place. • The grand champion steer of the American Royal, Jimmie C., was donated for the first Avila College American Royal Steer Dinner and Auction. The auction raised \$15,000. • Dr. Margaret Mead, anthropologist and writer, and Irving Levine, columnist and commentator, spoke on campus.

• The men's soccer program started, reaching district playoffs its first season.



1980s

1980

The first graduate degrees in business, education and psychology were awarded to 10 students. • The radiation technology baccalaureate program began on campus – the first in Kansas City.

1981

Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum was the first female to deliver the Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture.



1982

Avila's soccer team was ranked number one in the NAIA, winning the division-four championship. • Bill Waris became the first person to be inducted into the Avila Athletics Hall of Fame.

1973

Ground was broken for the combined nurse-education center, Borserine, and theatre complex, Goppert Theatre.

1974

Avila's theatre program held its first season in the new Goppert Theatre. The first production was "The Three Cuckolds." • The College launched a men's basketball program with Bill Waris as coach. • The Avalanche was adopted as the mascot.



1978

Hooley-Bundschu Library, Whitfield Center and Thornhill Art Gallery opened. • Coretta Scott King, civil rights leader and wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke on campus. • Leonard Nimoy, American actor best known for his role as Mr. Spock in Star Trek, also spoke on campus.

1979

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation contributed a \$500,000 challenge grant for the construction of Mabee Fieldhouse.

1985

Dr. Larry Kramer became the college's first male and lay president.

1987

The Board of Trustees approved the mission, philosophy and value statements for Avila College.





1990s

1990

The Avalanche mascot transformed into the Eagles. • Women's softball and men's baseball were added to the athletics program.

1991

The Thomas R. Zarda Athletic Complex, including softball, soccer and baseball fields, was dedicated.

1992

The Dallavis Center for Visual and Communication Arts was added to Ridgeway Hall, named in honor of President Emerita, Sister Olive Louise Dallavis.



1999

Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking*, gave the commencement address and was awarded an honorary degree.

2000s

2000

Cheer and dance teams were added to the athletics program.

AVILA UNIVERSITY

2002

Avila College became Avila University. • Mabee Fieldhouse was expanded. • Football was added to the athletics program.

2005

Avila's University Singers were invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York. • The Avila dance team takes 1st at the United Dance Association National Championship.



2007

Jeanne Collins Thompson Hall, a suite-style residence hall, was built in memory of the 1954 alumna.

2010s

2010

Men's golf and men's and women's cross country teams were added to the athletics program.

2012

Gienna Wylie Hall, a suite-style residence hall, was opened to meet the needs of increasing undergraduate enrollment. • With the support of alumni and friends, the University launched its largest fundraising effort ever, the \$43 million Centennial Campaign.



2013

Record enrollment is celebrated, reaching 2,000 students enrolled. • The Center for Global Studies and Social Justice was established.

2014

The Marie Joan Harris, CSI, Ph.D., Science and Health Complex, Learning Commons and Martha Smith, CSI, Ph.D., Archives and Research Center were dedicated. • The CSI Center for Heritage, Spirituality and Service was created to enhance and maintain the legacy of the University founders and sponsors, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. • The Center for Transformational Learning was established.



2008

Jeanne Hamilton Olfson Plaza was constructed and dedicated in honor of alumna Jeanne Hamilton Olfson '92, '94, '11.



2009

Avila University Choirs toured Italy and were selected to perform in the Rome International Choral Festival.



2015

A new core curriculum is implemented. • Alumni help raise a record \$1 million at the Steer Dinner. • The Statue of St. Teresa, sculpted by artist Charles Goslin, was dedicated in memory of Jeanne Collins Thompson '54 and Byron G. Thompson, Sr. • A five-year strategic plan focused on student success and a 10-year campus master plan that will transform campus are approved.



2016

Avila University celebrates a Century of Inspiration!

As we reflect on our 100-year history, we think of the individuals, families and organizations who have punctuated Avila's history, either through impact on our University or the global community. We present them here: the Avila University Notables. During this year of celebration, we recognize these notables in Accent and throughout social media and other communications, as a representation of how we've become the institution we are today, and to inspire the notables of tomorrow. We were inspired to present the first collection of notables, beginning with every president during our 100-year history, in this issue. Another collection will be featured in the fall edition of Accent magazine.

Avila University Notables



Presidents



SISTER MARY IRENE O'HARA served as the **first president** of Saint Teresa's College from 1916 to 1921. For more than 25 years, St. Teresa's was the only Catholic school providing secondary education for girls in Kansas City. The Sisters of the time recognized a need for post-secondary education and organized a two-year junior college so that women in our community could have a Catholic college education. The first classes were held on the campus of St. Teresa's Academy, and overseen by S. Irene, as she was known. During that first year, there were 11 members of the faculty serving seven students. She is remembered for her passion for the Catholic faith and generosity to students in need.



The **second president** of St. Teresa's College, **SISTER MARY PIUS NEENAN**, served from 1921 to 1927. She began her tenure as a faculty member in 1916. During her time as president, St. Teresa's was accredited by the University of Missouri, which rated its classes as 'excellent,' and the student publication, a literary magazine called "The Gleam," was published. S. Mary Pius was known as courteous, refined and loyal. She was deeply proud of Avila and other Sisters of St. Joseph institutions.

SISTER MARIETTA JENNINGS, CSJ, was the **third** and **sixth president** of St. Teresa's College from 1927 to 1933, and again from 1945 to 1951.

During her first leadership post, the St. Joseph Hospital's School of Nursing became affiliated with the College, and during her second post, in 1948, the program moved from the hospital to the College, making it the first baccalaureate nursing program in the Kansas City area.

S. Marietta added courses to the curriculum, including race and minority problems, child welfare, metaphysics and New Testament, and encouraged Thomas Hart Benton to speak on campus. S. Marietta was also known as a brilliant and exacting professor of history.





SISTER MARY MARCELLA CASEY was the **fourth president** of St. Teresa's College, from 1933-1939. Sister Casey welcomed Eleanor Roosevelt when she spoke at Municipal Auditorium in 1937. Mrs. Roosevelt was invited by the St. Teresa's College Guild. S. Casey also championed the plan to expand St. Teresa's to a four-year college, which was approved just after she stepped down. S. Casey was a teacher and an administrator for more than 50 years.



As the **fifth president** of what was then the College of St. Teresa from 1939-1945, **MOTHER SIMPLICIA DAILEY** helped develop the plan to expand St. Teresa's College into a four-year college. Mother Simplicia Dailey supervised the construction of Donnelly Hall, where the College of St. Teresa was housed, and "helped maintain the high standards for which St. Teresa's had always been known." S. Simplicia was known for being extremely friendly, a deeply religious Sister of St. Joseph and a capable teacher whose methods were constantly improved and broadened by study and reading.



SISTER MARY BERNICE O'NEILL was the **seventh president** from 1951-1954. During her time as president, the sisters received a television set from a former student and installed it in the community room in the Music and Arts building. The first male students were accepted, attending part-time and in the evening. The college began an adult education program, which met at a satellite campus in downtown Kansas City, Mo., and enrolled more than 4,000 students. The Ariston Award for outstanding graduating seniors was also established during S. Mary Bernice's tenure, and Avila first received North Central Association accreditation.



SISTER MARY ALFRED NOBLE started her career at the College of St. Teresa as a faculty member in 1950. In 1957, she became Avila's **eighth president**, and served until 1960. During her time as president, Avila enrolled a record freshman class – 100 students from 26 high schools. The nursing department modified from a three-year to a four-year program, and for the first time nursing students participated in the social aspects of college life. Twenty-nine percent of Avila alumnae contributed to the Alumnae Association's first endowment fund drive, raising \$3,668 in two months – the highest percentage ever achieved by any alumnae in U.S. colleges.





In 1960, **SISTER MARY DANIEL TAMMAMY** was appointed as the **ninth president** of the College of St. Teresa. In November of the same year, she announced that the College planned to move to a new location in south Kansas City, Mo. In part made possible by the bequest of first graduate Margaret O’Rielly, the sisters purchased a 50-acre tract of land at the very edge of Kansas City – for roughly \$200,000. S. Mary Daniel’s leadership at Avila was cut short due to a sudden illness, and she passed away in 1962. She was known for her progressive work in post-secondary education and her love of speech and drama.



As the **10th and longest acting president**, **SISTER OLIVE LOUISE DALLAVIS’** name is now **synonymous with Avila University**. She began as a faculty member at the College of St. Teresa in 1952, and was the youngest faculty member when she was appointed president in 1961.

S. Olive oversaw the College’s move to its current location, and in the early days, ran the College, oversaw construction, made minor repairs, visited donors, cooked meals and mowed the grass. Under her leadership, the College of St. Teresa changed its name to Avila College.

S. Olive served as president until 1985, but remained on campus to help the Advancement department raise funds until 2009. She was named president emerita. S. Olive is known as a bold and fearless leader, an early riser, a lover of music, and a devoted advocate for Avila. During her tenure, she began the Steer Dinner and the Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series. Her presence and spirit remain a guiding source of inspiration on campus.



LARRY KRAMER, Ed.D., the **11th president** of Avila, was both the first male and the first lay president of the College, from 1985-2000. During his tenure, Avila implemented a new core curriculum (the first major change to curriculum since 1970); developed a new logo and changed the mascot from the Avalanche to the Eagles; and started new co-curricular activities and athletic programs like debate, orchestra, choir, softball, baseball and football as a club sport. Kramer oversaw the planning and expansion of the Mabee Fieldhouse and sports complex. During his time, the Intensive Language and Culture Program began, which prepares international students for an American college experience by improving language and intercultural skills, and is still in existence today.



The **12th president** of Avila was **THOMAS F. GORDON, J.D.** Gordon began his service to Avila College as its general counsel in 1977. He was also a member of the Board of Counselors and Board of Trustees from 1980-1999. In 2000, he was named interim president, and in 2001 he officially took office. Under his leadership, Avila College became Avila University. During his tenure, Avila joined the Heart of America Athletic Conference, expanded football into intercollegiate competition, and added competitive cheerleading and women’s golf. Gordon began a \$14 million capital campaign, and secured what was then the largest gift in the school’s history, a \$1 million grant from The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation.





Avila's **13th president, JAMES (JIM) WILLCOX**, served as interim president in 2006. Prior to his appointment, Jim served on the Board of Trustees for more than a decade, and served as CEO of the national Avon Corporation and American Marketing Industries. During his time as president, he raised funds for the Embracing the Future Campaign, which eventually led to a new residence hall, Jeanne Collins Thompson Hall. Jim remains involved at Avila now as a member of the Centennial Campaign committee and supporter. In 2014, he made the Ruth M. Willcox Writing & Tutoring Center possible in the Learning Commons in memory of his late wife.



Inspired

Insightful

Integrated

Inclusive

Innovative

Influential

In July 2006, **RONALD SLEPITZA, Ph.D., CSJA**, began his duties as the **14th president** of Avila University, after more than 20 years at Xavier University and Creighton University. Under his leadership, he has propelled a remarkable renaissance at Avila that has resulted in record enrollment of nearly 2,000 students, new construction and renovations of more than 60 percent of the campus and more than \$60 million raised for scholarships and campus improvements. He attributes these accomplishments to a student success-focused culture, aimed at producing a learning environment and graduates that embody what he coined as Avila's "I" words: inspired, insightful, integrated, inclusive, innovative and influential.



Recognizing the importance for faculty and staff to carry forward the mission and charisma that the Sisters of St. Joseph founded Avila upon, he shepherded the Sisters of St. Joseph Associates program, and personally became an Associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Dr. Slepitz lives and breathes Avila's mission and influences the next generation to become the best version of themselves, so that they may inspire others to do the same. He recently led the University through a planning process that resulted in a five-year strategic plan and 10-year campus master plan that will boldly guide Avila into its next century of service.



In 1961, **JOHN B. BACHOFER**, president of Nelly Don, Inc., became the first member of the Board of Counselors. This group was established by S. Olive Louise Dallavis as the College's lay advisory board providing guidance to the administration in matters of financial and physical growth, and community understanding and support. In 1987, he established the Mr. John & Mrs. Juanita Bachofer endowed scholarship fund, and became a member of the Heritage Society.

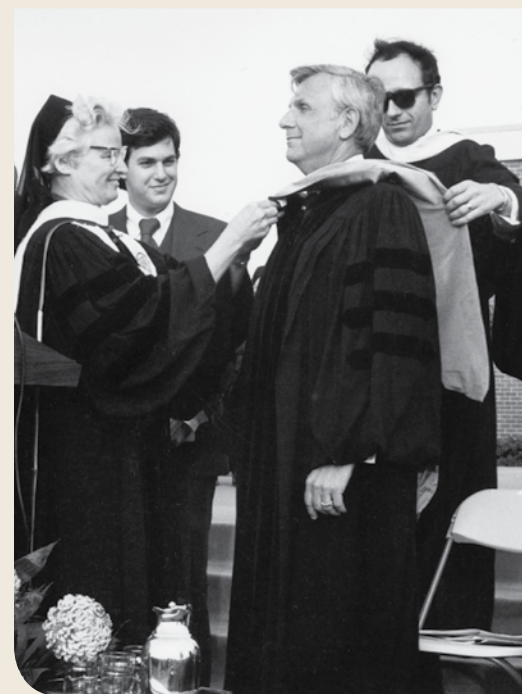
Notables

ALFRED BLASCO was one of the first two lay members of the Board of Trustees, elected in 1967. Under his leadership, the Board established quarterly meetings, began drawing up an agenda with enclosures prior to the next meeting, setting meeting dates a year in advance and circulating meeting minutes. Blasco was a longtime member of the Grand Magisterium in Rome and a Knight of the Collar. At the time, he was just the fourth person and the second layman in the world to receive this rare honor. In his professional life, Blasco worked his way up to President and Chairman of Interstate Securities, Red Bridge Bank and Mark Plaza State Bank. Blasco Hall is named in his honor.



HENRY BLOCH '77 HON. AND HIS WIFE, MARION, have a deep and rich history with Avila University. Henry is one of just 36 recipients of an Avila Honorary Doctorate degree, for his professional and personal achievements in business and philanthropy. Henry currently serves as an Honorary Chair of Avila's Centennial Campaign. Through the H&R Block Foundation, the Marion & Henry Bloch Family Foundation and personally, Henry and Marion have established an endowed scholarship, supported capital improvements, programs and more.

THE BORSERINE NURSE EDUCATION CENTRE WAS NAMED FOR KATHLEEN, EDWIN AND FRANCES BORSERINE, who were supporters of Avila University. (Edwin and Frances were married;



Kathleen was married to Edwin's brother, Louis. Louis and Edwin were business partners.) Edwin and Frances Borserine are members of the Heritage Society and established the Edwin Borserine Scholarship in 1988. Today, the Borserine building is home to the Avila University School of Nursing and the Nursing Education and Resource Center, which features low, medium and high-fidelity simulators to provide practice opportunities in nursing interventions and clinical reasoning.





JUDGE HENRY A. BUNDSCHU made a commitment to Avila College to construct a permanent library on campus in 1962. When it was constructed in 1977, the new library provided five times more space and the latest technology of the time. Judge Bundschu's family founded the Bundschu Department Store and were extremely active in the community. Judge Bundschu was a federal referee in bankruptcy court and close friends with President Harry S. Truman.



The first commencement exercises of the four-year college, the **COLLEGE OF ST. TERESA**, took place on June 3, 1942. The first students to receive their degrees were: **S. Praxeda Arnsek, OSF, Mayme DiMaggio D'Agostino, Mary Golden Donnelly, Teresa Kouba and Lois Romer Poorman**, who all received Bachelor's of Arts. **S. Irmerna Olds, SSM**, received a Bachelor's of Science. Students attended classes in the new Donnelly Hall, which was constructed for a total cost of \$250,000.

SISTER MARY DE LA SALLE MCKEON was a Medal of Honor recipient and professor emerita of music at Avila University, where she taught for 48 years. As chair of the Avila music department, she founded and conducted the city-wide Avila Music Festival, which grew to host more than 4,000 participants from elementary and high schools in Kansas City. The festival featured vocal and instrumental soloists, ensembles, choruses and the occasional marching band.



Around 1650, **Jean Pierre Medaille**, a Jesuit priest, founded a group of women in Le Puy-Velay, France. Under the patronage of St. Joseph, these six women dedicated themselves to *"the practice of all the spiritual and corporal works of mercy of which woman is capable and which will most benefit the 'DEAR NEIGHBOR'."* Avila University continues to be guided by this value to this day, as we serve our students and prepare them to make responsible lifelong contributions to the global community. Once a year, Avila students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends gather together for a day of service in the local community called **Dear Neighbor Day**.

In the area we know today as Quality Hill, **FATHER BERNARD DONNELLY** constructed a church and school which became St. Teresa's Academy, the birthplace of what is today Avila University. On 10 acres of land on a wooded bluff overlooking the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers, the school opened in 1866. Father Donnelly applied to the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph for teachers for his school. Approximately 140 students enrolled the first year, including Spanish, French, Irish, German and American children. For more than 25 years, St. Teresa's was the only Catholic school providing more than an elementary education for girls in Kansas City.





THE DUNN FAMILY AND J.E. DUNN CONSTRUCTION

COMPANY have long been a part of Avila University. In the early years, a music area was named at the college in honor of **Rose Dunn**, wife of the founder and CEO of J.E. Dunn Construction Company, **John Ernest Dunn**. Their daughter, **Mary Ellen Dunn Daly**, graduated from St. Teresa's College

in 1939. The Dunns have played a major role in constructing Avila's campus since 1978, including the Hooley-Bundschu Library, Whitfield Center, Mabee Fieldhouse and Dallavis Center. In addition, the Dunn Family and J.E. Dunn Construction Company have contributed financially to many more campus improvements and provided scholarships to students in need. **William H. Dunn, Sr.**, and his wife, 1942 alumna **Jean Dunn**, served as Honorary Chairs of the 2008 Steer Dinner and currently serve as Honorary Chairs of the Centennial Campaign. William Dunn, Sr., received an honorary degree from Avila in 1990. William and Jean's sons have continued the family's involvement. **Bill Dunn, Jr.**, served as a trustee at Avila from 1990 to 1998 and his wife, **Marianne**, is a 2001 alumna. **Steve Dunn** and his wife, 1975 alumna **Anne Dunn**, serve as Co-Chairs of the Centennial Campaign and Steve serves as a Trustee.



SCOTT ROYAL FERRIS' legacy at Avila University began in 1983 when he was hired to be the men's soccer coach. During his seven years of coaching, he generated an impressive 95-24-13 record and was named NAIA coach of the year in 1987; his team won the District Soccer Championship that same year and competed in the National Tournament. In 1984, Scott introduced basketball, softball and the Booster Club. He also oversaw

completion of the Zarda Complex, hired the first athletic trainer and developed the training room. Coach Royal-Ferris was most proud that during his time at Avila, 100 percent of his athletes graduated.

MARY FINNEY BLACK '35 is the creator of Avila University's seal. At the center of the seal is an open book, symbolic of the school's patron, St. Teresa of Avila. Inscribed in the book is the University's motto, attributed to St. Teresa: "Deo Adjuvante Non Timendum," which means, "With God helping, there is nothing to fear." Above the book is a lily, the emblem of St. Joseph, and around the book is a triangle signifying the Holy Trinity. These elements are superimposed upon a trefoil, three interlocking circles symbolic of the Holy Family, under whose protection the Sisters of St. Joseph serve. Black was known as a talented artist and was a scholarship recipient during her time at St. Teresa's college in 1933.



FOYLE HALL IS NAMED FOR ROSE MCALLEN FOYLE, a strong supporter of Avila University, and the broader Catholic community. Rose was born in 1893 and married **John W. Foyle**, a vice president of the Gustin-Bacon Manufacturing Company. When Avila moved to the south Kansas City, Mo., campus in 1961, Rose funded the purchase of the organ that would later be built in Orscheln Chapel. Upon her death in September of 1972, she left a generous bequest to Avila, and S. Olive honored her gift by renaming Foyle Hall.

Pictured above: Mrs. Rose Foyle (left), with Mrs. Mary Clarkson (right), BOC



THE **GOPPERT FOUNDATION** was established in 1959 by **Clarence H. Goppert**, a banker and philanthropist who wanted to support the communities that helped him grow his business. Clarence served as an advisor to Avila, and a strong supporter of its scholarships and capital improvements. The Goppert Foundation provided scholarship support when severe cuts were made to Missouri's only need-based scholarship program, Access Missouri, and supported numerous capital improvements on campus, including the Goppert Theatre, Jeanne Collins Thompson Hall, Glenna Wylie Hall, the Learning Commons and Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex.

VITA GOPPERT '72 is known as "The First Lady" of Avila for being the first female lay trustee, serving on Avila's Board of Trustees from 1969 to 1983. She received an Honorary Doctorate from Avila in 1972, and with her then-husband, Clarence Goppert, and the Goppert Foundation, she helped establish Goppert Theatre for its opening season in 1974. She was a visionary leader and a dear friend and advisor to S. Olive Louise Dallavis. In 1990, she established an endowed scholarship in her mother's name, Cecil Viola Scribner, which provides an annual scholarship to an Avila student. In 2012, Vita was inducted into Avila's Father Medaille Society. Vita passed away in November 2014, but her impact on students will live on through a legacy gift she made in her estate that will establish the Goppert Performing Arts Center on campus in 2017.



BOB '78 & PAT '79 HARDIN

met at Avila and later married, but first established a legacy as Avila athletes. Bob was a recruit of Coach Bill Waris's to play basketball, and Pat played on the first Avila volleyball team. Pat was the University's first 4-letter athlete. They both went on to achieve professional

accomplishments, while still remaining close to their alma mater. Pat is founder and owner of a medical billing system business

and Bob worked in the banking industry until he retired. As scholarship supporters, Pat and Bob Hardin served as Co-Chairs of the 2015 Steer Dinner and Anniversary Chairs of the 40th annual Steer Dinner in 2016. Additionally, Bob served on the Board of Counselors and currently is a trustee.



S. MARIE JOAN HARRIS, CSJ, Ph.D., is Provost Emerita of Avila University. During a 45-year career as chemistry professor, dean and provost and vice president for academic affairs, S. Marie's impact on Avila is significant. She led the revision of Avila's core curriculum not once, but twice; helped create Avila's current mission and value statements; helped establish and

grow the Avila Advantage program; and established the faculty assembly and faculty scholarship committees. She is known as a trusted, collaborative and tireless leader who guided and supported the faculty at Avila for decades.



ROBERT (BOB) F. HARTSOOK, JD, EdD, founder and chairman of Hartsook Companies, Inc., and one of the most well-known fundraisers in the country, established the Hartsook Institute for Fundraising Management at Avila University in 2010, a research-based master's and certificate program

designed to improve the quality of fundraising professionals. In 2015, he championed the first online master's in fundraising management degree in the country, establishing Avila's first national online program. Bob serves as fundraising counsel and has helped the University raise more than \$75 million. He is also a former member of the Board of Trustees, a member of the Father Medaille Society and Heritage Society and a recipient of the President's Medal of Philanthropy. The Hartsook Presidential Conference room bears his name as a result of his support and leadership.



The Hodes Center is named after **KATHERINE ROSE DIERKS HODES**, also known as KaRose Hodes, who was an alumna from the class of 1925. In 1927, she married **Herman J. Hodes**, who founded H.J. Hodes and Company in 1943 with his brothers, and still operates today. KaRose and Herman were more than just supporters of Avila, they were also advocates for education. Of the nine children they had, four of them are alumnae of Avila. KaRose's sister, **Helen Neenan**, also is an alumna who graduated in 1943. KaRose's brother, **Richard Dierks**, established the Richard H. Dierks Trust at Avila.



Avila's library, the Hooley-Bundschu Library, was named for **ANN SARACHON HOOLEY**. Ann founded the highly-successful Sarachon Hooley Business School, a secretarial school that was opened for 37 years and trained more than 10,000 women. Upon its closing, Ann donated her office equipment, materials and curriculum to Avila. Ann's career also included a national presidency of the Council of Catholic Women and director of the Women's Division of the USO. Ann was honored by two popes with the Pro-Ecclesia and the Grand Cross of the Lady of the Holy Sepulchre, appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Committee on the Mobilization for Human Needs, and was an expert consultant to the U.S. Secretary of War.



During his 23 years as Vice President and Dean of Students, from 1976-1999, **TOM LEASE** made a significant impact on Avila University. He led retention efforts at the University, created the First Year Seminar and led co-curricular activities campus-wide. He said, "Avila College has been my career, my passion and the source of my lasting relationships for most of my adult life. When asked who had the greatest impact on me, the answer is simple: the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. No one, student or employee, who passes through the institution can forget them as individuals or fail to learn and grow from them as a community."

HAROLD LOGSDON, the first male graduate of Avila University, received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1955. Before he achieved this distinction, he achieved another similar one when Logsdon was named the first man to be assistant director of nursing services at St. Margaret's Hospital in Kansas City. Originally from Covington, Ken., where he worked as acting assistant director of nursing at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Logsdon relocated to Kansas City for this professional opportunity. Because Logsdon worked full-time as assistant director, he attended late afternoon and Saturday classes at Avila to complete his degree.



The Mabee Fieldhouse and the Mabee Innovation Center in the Learning Commons is named for **THE J.E. AND L.E.**

MABEE FOUNDATION, a member of the Father Jean Pierre Medaille Society, and one of Avila's most significant supporters. The Mabee Foundation was formed in 1948 by **John E. Mabee** and his wife, **Lottie E. Mabee**, who were successful oil drilling contractors in Oklahoma.

The Mabees were Missouri natives and had no children, thus, most of their estate was left to the Foundation after they passed away. In addition to the Fieldhouse, support from the Mabee Foundation has helped build or renovate residence halls, the Learning Commons, the Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex and numerous other spaces throughout campus.



Avila University's **MONTESSORI EDUCATION PROGRAM** began in September 1967. Run by **Lena Wikramaratne**, who trained under **Dr. Maria Montessori** in Madras, India, the Montessori program, and later a Montessori lab school, operated on Avila's campus for more than 40 years. The lab

school provided high-quality instruction and supervision to approximately 80 children each year, ranging in age from two to seven years old. Dr. Wikramaratne was a proud supporter of Avila, and in 1977 established the Dr. Lena Wikramaratne Education Scholarship to support students studying education.



Nurse, administrator, educator and advocate for social justice, **S. BARBARA MOORE, CSJ**, was the Dean of Nursing at Avila University, as well as a teacher and administrator at St. Joseph's Hospital. While nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1965, she participated in the protest for Voting Rights in Selma, Ala. S. Barbara was featured in the PBS documentary, "Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change". Most recently, she has served on a variety of boards, including Catholic Charities, Avila University, St. Catherine University, Nia Kuumba Spirituality Center and Microfinancing Partners in Africa. As a long-time supporter and advocate of Avila University, she received an Honorary Degree in 2015.



MARYBETH "YELLOWBIRD" MEYERS was an integral part of Avila University's Steer Dinner for many years. With her impeccable wardrobe of yellow attire and her beautiful snow-white hair, Marybeth supported Avila's efforts to



increase scholarship support for Avila students. For many years, Marybeth underwrote the Steer Dinner so that all support from other contributors could be completely dedicated to scholarships. In her honor, Avila named Yellowbird Lane, which runs along the west edge of campus between O'Rielly Hall and the Athletic Pavilion.



Educator and visionary, **S. EVELYN O'NEILL, CSJ**, spent most of her 62 years of religious life in Kansas City. Best known for her long and distinguished leadership of St. Teresa's Academy, she was also the founder of St. Teresa's Junior College. Archival letters document her tireless research, planning, cajoling and fundraising to create an institution of higher learning for Catholic women in Kansas City. Avila University may not exist today without her fervent and enthusiastic belief in the importance of women's education for her faculty and students.

MARGARET O'RIELLY '18

became the first graduate of St. Teresa's College in 1918. She graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in general studies. Margaret was generous to many Catholic institutions, including Avila. When she passed away in 1952, Margaret left money in her estate for Avila, which was used to purchase 50 acres in south Kansas City. O'Rielly Hall, the first building constructed on Avila's campus on Wornall Road, is named in her honor.





JEANNE HAMILTON OLOFSON, '92, '94, '11 is the only individual to receive three degrees from Avila, including an Honorary Doctorate in 2011. Jeanne's first association with Avila was when she would bring her son, Chris, to campus for piano lessons. After earning her degrees, Jeanne served on the Alumni Board and MBA Advisory Board, and has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2000. Her support made numerous scholarships, capital improvements and projects possible, including establishing the Jeanne Hamilton Olofson Endowed Scholarship Fund, the Jeanne Hamilton Olofson Plaza (known by students as the J-HOP), monument signage, the Learning Commons and the 2015 strategic plan. Jeanne is a member of the Heritage Society and the Father Medaille Society. As a member of the Advancement Committee, she has helped raised millions of dollars for Avila and has served as an Honorary Chair of Steer Dinner and two fundraising campaigns, including the Centennial Campaign.

THE ORSCHELN FAMILY has a long involvement with Avila. The **Kay Orscheln Memorial Chapel** was constructed 1966. A plaque inside reads, "A faithful life, a loving mother, a dedicated woman." Prior to its current location, the Chapel was located in the southeast corner of upper Blasco Hall. The Orscheln Chapel was intentionally designed to be a small, intimate space, "large enough for 150 persons and small enough so as not to feel lost when the sisters met for morning and evening prayers." Several members of the family are alumni, and support Avila personally and through the Orscheln Industries Foundation, Inc. **Phil Orscheln** serves on the Centennial Campaign Committee and is a former member of the Board of Trustees.



JEANNE LILLIG-PATTERSON '80 graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in music. She was a member of the first Avila volleyball team and earned academic and athletic scholarships. After college, Jeanne was the seventh person hired at a Kansas City-based health information technology company, Cerner. There, she held a variety of positions, including Director of Marketing and Operations and Director of Client Services, helping grow Cerner into what is now a company with \$3.4 billion in annual revenues. Jeanne married Cerner Co-Founder, **Neal Patterson**, and co-founded the First Hand Foundation. She is a recipient of the Avila Medal of Honor and established the Jeanne Lillig-Patterson Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Jeanne Lillig-Patterson Faculty Innovation Fund. She currently serves as an Honorary Chair of the Centennial Campaign.



Internationally known as a tireless advocate to abolish the death penalty in the United States, **S. HELEN PREJEAN, CSJ**, had her popular and powerful book, "Dead Man Walking," made into an award-winning movie, play and opera. S. Helen later published another book on her experiences, "The Death of Innocents." She has visited Avila University on three occasions; first, to receive an Honorary Degree and provide the 1999 commencement speech; second, to speak and attend the Avila University theatre production of "Dead Man Walking" in 2007; and most recently in 2015, to support her anti-death penalty work with the Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.





Ridgway Hall, the second residence hall on Avila's campus, was constructed in 1970. It was named in honor of **MARIE LYNCH RIDGWAY**. Marie, who is a member of the Heritage Society at Avila, graduated from Bishop Ward High School in Kansas City, Kan., in 1917, and married **Robert A. Ridgway** in 1927. Robert was president of the National Protective Insurance Company and was a World War I veteran. Ridgway Hall was renovated in 2008.



TOM SANDERS is part of the fabric of Avila University's campus. He helped build O'Reilly Hall in 1962 when he was working for his father at Midwest Mechanical Contractors. Sanders, who took over leadership of the company in 1971, was CEO until 2003 and remains Chairman.

Tom has served on Avila's Board of Trustees and remains a strong supporter. Tom is a member of the Heritage Society, and he received an Honorary Degree in 2003.



ARTHUR G. SCHLUMBERGER, who served as Chief Maintenance Engineer and Director of Physical Plant from 1963-1998, is the namesake for the Schlumpberger Facility on Avila's campus. The building which bears his name holds maintenance equipment, provides workshop space and serves as a storage facility. Schlumpberger was part of the original construction crew who helped build the first buildings on campus in 1963. The Schlumpberger Facility was dedicated in 1999, and he remains connected to the University, regularly attending Homecoming and other Avila events.

Born and raised in Kansas City, **S. ROBERTA SCHMIDT**, devoted her life to education. She worked in numerous positions as a teacher and superintendent in K-12 Catholic schools. Her work in higher education included serving as a senior administrator at universities in the south and midwest, including the presidency of Fontbonne University in St. Louis.

She served as a trustee for Avila University from 2008-2013. She was also one of the six original Catholic sisters to go to Selma, Ala. in March, 1965. S. Roberta was featured in the PBS documentary, "Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change." As a long-time supporter of Avila University, she received an Honorary Doctorate in 2015.



S. ROSE ANTHONY SCHMITT

called Avila University home for 36 years. She began as a philosophy teacher in 1956, and spent more than 20 years as director of the Avila College Alumni Association. She was known for her amazing memory, particularly of Avila alumni, and positive attitude.

S. Rose Anthony loved to attend Avila sporting events with S. Ann Dominic, and would move her lips in prayer throughout the game. She was someone who you would never forget, because she never forgot you.



G. RICHARD SCOTT began teaching at Avila as a part-time instructor in 1964. In 1970, he became the first lay academic dean when he was named the Dean of Students, a position that became the Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs. After 17 years, Scott left this position to become Avila's first director of planned giving. He began the Heritage Society, which

recognizes supporters who have created an endowed scholarship or left a gift to Avila in their will. During his tenure at Avila, Scott was granted a Medal of Honor (1974) and an Honorary Doctorate (1984).



Avila University was founded by the **SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET** in 1916. However, the Sisters were first formed in 1650 when six women in Le Puy, France dedicated themselves to the “practice of all the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and which will most benefit the dear neighbor.” The Sisters were formed under the guidance of **Jean Pierre Medaille, S.J.** They first came to the U.S. in 1836 to open a school for the deaf in St. Louis, and arrived in Kansas City in 1866 to staff

St. Teresa’s Academy. Recognizing the need for post-secondary education, they established St. Teresa’s Junior College in 1916. Numerous sisters have served as trustees, president, provost, faculty and staff during Avila’s history. One-third of the Board of Trustees is made up of Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and their values and charism remain the guiding force for the future of our institution.



Educator and scholar, **S. MARTHA SMITH** had a 30 year career at Avila University as a professor of history. A Fulbright Scholar, award-winning teacher and published author, she co-authored (with Avila University faculty member **Carol K. Coburn, Ph.D.**) “Spirited Lives: How Nuns Shaped Catholic Culture and American Life, 1836-1920.” During the last years of her life she worked to create and maintain a book collection called the Women Religious Special Collection that housed books by, for and about Catholic sisters. The Avila University archive was named in her honor when the Sister Martha Smith, CSJ, Ph.D., Archives and Research Center was dedicated in August of 2014.

In order to provide young women in Kansas City a Catholic college education, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet organized a junior college, St. Teresa’s College, on the campus of St. Teresa’s Academy at 5600 Main Street. **ST. TERESA’S COLLEGE** began holding classes in September 1916. Courses offered included Christian doctrine, English, French, Latin, German, mathematics, history, botany, science, home economics, piano, violin, harp and art. The **CLASS OF 1916** was **Hortense Lacy, Margaret O’Rielly, Esther Prisse, Mercedes Riley, Gladys Hoffman, Christine Chittenden and Catherine Ifft.** Eight sisters and three lay faculty members outnumbered their first pupils 11 to seven.



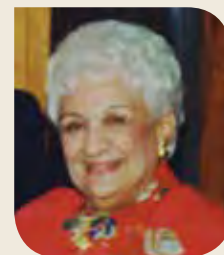


S. ANN DOMINIC TASSONE, CSJ, is professor emerita, and the recipient of the Honorary Alumni Award and Medal of Honor. However, she is perhaps best known for her “fanatical” display of support for Avila’s sports teams. In fact, her enthusiasm inspired the University to name its mascot after her – Dom the Eagle –

and led to an induction into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 1997 for her spirit and dedication. S. Ann Dominic worked at Avila for 35 years, where she taught mathematics and was the chair of the department of Natural and Allied Health Sciences and Mathematics, and later worked in the Avila Advantage program.

ROSE SARLI TEICHER was a Kansas City businesswoman and philanthropist whose support made a significant impact on Avila University. She was a strong advocate and supporter of Catholic education. Over the years, she funded capital projects and scholarships at Avila, including establishing the Rose Teicher Endowed Scholarship. Rose was awarded an honorary doctorate from Avila University in 1992. In 1998, she was named the

Philanthropist of the Year by the Greater Kansas City Council on Philanthropy for her contributions to organizations in the Kansas City community and deep commitment to the causes of children and education.



JEANNE COLLINS THOMPSON '54, was a graduate of the College of St. Teresa, earning a Bachelor’s of Science in biology. Jeanne was the University’s first Ariston Award recipient, presented each year to one outstanding senior for academic merit, leadership and service. Although she received many honors during her lifetime, including receiving the National Multiple Sclerosis Mother of the Year Award from President George H.W. Bush at the White House in 1991, and being knighted as a Dame of the Holy Sepulchre, she always considered her family to be her greatest accomplishment. Commonly known as Thompson Hall, a suite-style residence hall, Jeanne Collins Thompson Hall was dedicated in 2006 in her honor.

THE THOMPSON FAMILY has been interwoven throughout the history of Avila University. Family matriarch, Jeanne Collins Thompson '54, is the namesake of Jeanne Collins Thompson Hall, memorialized by her husband, **Byron G. Thompson, Sr.**, and their children. The family, including 1984 alumna **Ramona Gatschet Thompson**, and the family business, Country Club Bank, have made a lasting impact at Avila through scholarships, Steer Dinner and capital improvements. In 2015, the family dedicated the statue of St. Teresa of Avila in memory of Jeanne and Byron. Byron and Jeanne’s son **Mark**, served on the Board of Counselors and is currently a member of Avila’s Board of Trustees. Mark and his wife, **Amy**, also serve as Co-Chairs of the Centennial Campaign. As Chair of the Advancement Committee, Mark has helped raise millions of dollars for Avila University.





WILLIAM (BILL) WARIS became the first men's basketball coach at Avila in 1974. During his eight-year coaching career, he led the Avila Avalanche to 123 wins and 96 losses. He was also the first Athletic Director at Avila. After his career in higher education, Bill served as Jackson County Executive and, in 1983, became the first inductee into the Avila Athletics Hall of Fame. In his memory, in 2008 the Waris family and dear friend, Tom McCullough, established the William Waris Memorial Court in Mabee Fieldhouse and the Bill Waris Endowed Scholarship Fund for basketball student athletes. Bill's son, Tim, serves on the Board of Counselors and established the Bill Waris Memorial Basketball Tournament, held annually on Avila's campus.



Ed and Mary Agnes Thornhill Scholarship. Their children, **Margot** and **Tom**, were also active with the University. Margot worked in admissions and was Avila's first archivist. She received the Honorary Alumni Award in 2004. Tom and Margot were instrumental in supporting and naming the Thornhill Art Gallery in memory of their parents.

DOROTHY ANN WHITFIELD '55, the namesake of the Whitfield Center on campus, received her Bachelor's of Science in chemistry from the College of St. Teresa. Dorothy started her professional career as a medical technologist, but later became a successful entrepreneur who distributed medical and clinical products as the owner of C&I Products. She served as a Trustee from 1982 to 1997. She was a member of the Father Medaille Society and Heritage Society. Dorothy retired in 1985, and passed away in 2010. She leaves a strong legacy of service and generosity at Avila University through the establishment of the Dorothy Whitfield Endowed Scholarship and Whitfield Center.



THE ZARDA FAMILY is an integral part of both the history of Kansas City and Avila University. Former Avila Board of Trustee member, **Thomas Zarda**, is a longtime supporter of Avila. Tom and his family are the namesake of the Zarda Family Athletic Complex on campus, which was dedicated in 1991 and renovated in 2011 to house facilities for football, soccer, baseball and softball. Tom is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Avila University. Tom's family owned Zarda Dairy and Zarda's BBQ. Tom continues the Zarda legacy in Kansas City through his work as a real estate developer.



Any compilation of this nature is sure to be incomplete due to the limitations of records, documentation and memory. However, we would love to hear from you. Who was notable to your experience at Avila? Share your memories at facebook.com/avilauniversity or send them to Deanna.Nelson@avila.edu.

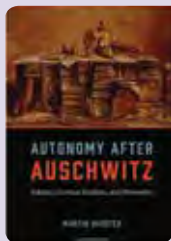
Look for the second collection of Notables that will be featured in the fall edition of Accent magazine. 📖

Faculty Accomplishments

Wendy Donnell, Ph.D., assistant professor of education in the School of Education, was a proposal reviewer during the International Literacy Association 2016 Annual Conference and as a part of Kansas City, Kan., Public Schools Office of the Superintendent special projects, provided literacy expertise on-site to K-6 teachers.

Nicole Esquibel, MFA, associate professor and dean of the School of Visual and Communication Arts, presented her latest feature-length documentary film, “Neva, Symbol of Resistance” at the University Film and Video Association annual conference at American University in Washington, D.C.

Sue Ellen McCalley, Ph.D., professor of education and psychology in the School of Education, facilitated a workshop with first year seminar instructors on “Integrating Mission and Calling into Instruction” in conjunction with the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVue) conference in October 2015 at Avila.



Martin Shuster, Ph.D., professor of philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, authored *Autonomy after Auschwitz*, University of Chicago Press, 2015.



Joseph Anthony Snorgrass, Ph.D., MCRP, AICP, associate professor of communication in the School of Visual and Communication Arts, featured a new exhibit in Kansas City, Missouri’s 18th & Vine Historic District from October 2015 through January 2016 titled “Super\Imposed: Beyond the Mind’s Eye.” A notable photographer and artist, Snorgrass works among an innovative and international group of scholars that are examining how digital media and augmented reality applications transform the processes and effect of persuasive communication as creative art.



Kelly Watson, Ph.D., professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, authored *Insatiable Appetites: Imperial Encounters with Cannibals in the North Atlantic World*, NYU Press, 2015. 📖



An Avila Inspiration

Brian Ciolek, kinesiology professor and Director of Strength and Conditioning for the Athletics department, takes pride in inspiring students. As professor, freshman advisor and director of the training and performance development for all of Avila’s 16 sports teams, he is motivated by the University’s creative and flexible environment and encourages each of his students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it within their own lives.

“I want my students and athletes to see the greater picture of their development. I hope in the end they can use this skill to lead a more fulfilling career and life.”

Ciolek’s mission-based teaching and training methods have been well-received by his students and athletes. After his first year of teaching, the students selected him as Professor of the Year.

“The appreciation of the athletes has been the most rewarding. Seeing them progress physically and mentally is really enjoyable.” 📖

Left to right, top to bottom: Wendy Donnell, Ph.D., Nicole Esquibel, MFA, Sue Ellen McCalley, Ph.D., Martin Shuster, Ph.D., Joseph Anthony Snorgrass, Ph.D., MCRP, AICP, Kelly Watson, Ph.D.

Inspiration Goes Full Circle



A Tribute to Nursing Student Chris Bridges

"I want my students and athletes to see the greater picture of their development. I hope in the end they can use this skill to lead a more fulfilling career and life."

— Professor Brian Ciolek



Brian shares a laugh and words of wisdom with first year students at the 2015 Convocation.

When people describe Chris Bridges, several words and phrases come to mind: inspirational, vibrant, loving husband and Royals blue. Bridges served in the U.S. Navy and transferred to Avila in 2013. His military background influenced his decision to pursue a career in nursing. Nursing instructor Jessica Brunsmann, MSN, RN, CPN, described him as the "class cheerleader."

"He would always encourage his classmates to power through, no matter what the circumstances, and it was always with a little bit of humor to keep things light," said Brunsmann.

While attending Avila, Chris worked full-time at Shawnee Mission Medical Center as an operating room surgical technician, which occasionally led to a few nudges from his professors to submit his assignments, and ongoing support of his professors, he successfully balanced his work and academics.

In the fall of 2014, Bridges passed away unexpectedly; however, his fellow classmates want to ensure his lasting impact would be felt for years to come. To honor his life and the impact he made on his peers, Bridges' graduating class

created a scholarship in his honor.

Brunsmann said, "Chris was always supportive of his classmates, so the idea of a scholarship to support future healthcare leaders would have been something that he would have been very proud of."

On the anniversary of his passing in October 2015, members of his class and faculty members in the nursing department organized an inspirational tribute to Bridges by releasing white balloons into the sky. During his coursework, Bridges completed a project for his evidence-based nursing course, Post-Op Pain Management with Music Therapy, which demonstrated the benefits of utilizing music as a form of holistic treatment following surgery. Bridges' project was included as a presentation in the 2015 Student Scholar Day.

Bridges' legacy continues to be felt today. Through the nursing scholarship established in his name, two junior nursing students, Elizabeth Standish and Bryan Tunison, have been able to witness the full circle of inspiration. They have each been awarded \$650 to continue their paths towards becoming healthcare leaders. 🎓



Making Her Mark on the World

Senior Social Work Student Serves on State Board

Sarah Owsley Townsend, senior social work student, transferred to Avila from Metropolitan Community College in 2014. The minute she stepped on campus, she knew that it was a good fit. She believes the strengths of the social work program is tied to the wonderful faculty, transformational learning opportunities and the strong connection to the values of Avila, including diversity, interaction with and service to others, and respecting the worth, dignity and potential of each human being.

Thanks in part to the social work program's emphasis on service to the dear neighbor, Townsend feels very connected to her community and has held many leadership opportunities. Notably, she serves as a student representative on the board of the Missouri chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Townsend says, "It's a really purposeful way for me and for Avila social work students in general to connect with the larger field of social work in Missouri and nationally. In addition, it allows me the opportunity to provide real feedback of what's happening with social work students and how success-

ful efforts have been at integrating our knowledge base into practice. For example, I am able to communicate things with my class that I've learned in my role as board member about changing trends in practice as well as pilot programs in our area."

Townsend also participated in the interdisciplinary studies travel course to India and visited Agra, New Delhi, Chennai and Madurai.

"After my trip to India, I have developed a new appreciation for diversity," Townsend said. "While we may come from different backgrounds, we can overcome our differences and still work together."

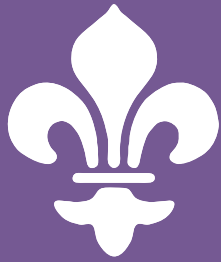
As she prepares to graduate in May, she is completing her 500-hour practicum at the Family Drug Court – 16th Circuit Court of Jackson County, Mo., and is gaining real-world experience in the foster care and adoption system. Townsend believes that her social work education at Avila has given her the tools to make her mark on the world. She has been accepted to the Master's of Social Work program at the University of Kansas and will begin her studies during the summer of 2016. 📖

New Core Curriculum Shines Light on CSJ Vision

As Avila University turns 100 years old, faculty and staff remain mindful of how students will be prepared in our next century of education to provide lifelong contributions to the global community and live the Avila values. The new core curriculum launched last fall is a promising indication that Avila graduates will become the best version of themselves and share their talents to improve our world.

After five years of dedicated work by Avila's faculty, the new curriculum was successfully rolled out to students last fall. Through coursework and campus activities, the Avila student learns to communicate effectively, employ higher level thinking skills, acquire knowledge in the liberal arts and a field of specialization and develop personally, spiritually, and socially.

"The curriculum has well-defined outcomes and objectives and is designed to involve the student in the learning process," said Carol Coburn, Ph.D., former Co-Chair of the Faculty Assembly Committee, Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the CSJ Center for Heritage, Spirituality and Service. "What makes it distinct is the integration of the mission and values of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet with three core components including global studies and



social justice, interdisciplinary studies and civic engagement. These three areas embody the CSJ teachings of right relationships with self, others and the earth.”

Within the three core components, some of the intended learning outcomes include a globalized perspective, the ability to integrate learning into action for a socially just society, the ability to integrate, synthesize and communicate knowledge from two or more disciplines, and the ability to synthesize learning and service to the dear neighbor without distinction. Within the civic engagement component, the goal is to provide students the opportunity to enhance their education, foster community responsibility, and grow in self-understanding while contributing to the needs of our local, national, or global communities.

“Avila has always been proud of its quality education, and the new core curriculum further enriches our learning environment while preparing students to carry forward our values as an institution sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet,” said Cathryn Pridal, Vice President of Academic Affairs. 📖

Transforming Lives Through Education

Transforming lives is something that comes natural to Cornell Ellis ’14. Ellis teaches seventh-grade English at the Ewing Marion Kauffman School, a college preparatory school, which teaches students from the most underserved neighborhoods in urban Kansas City, Mo. The Missouri Charter Public School Association named the Kauffman School as its 2015 Missouri Charter School of the Year. Ellis, who graduated with a bachelor’s in history and played football at Avila, believes that his Avila education gave him the tools to help his students make connections and become better learners.

Ellis says, “My success at the Kauffman School is a direct result of the various strategies Avila taught me to access. At Kauffman School, I am able to make a direct impact on my community and help change students’ lives. Teaching challenges me to struggle, fail and succeed on a daily basis. It pushes me to learn new things, meet new people and contemplate the greater good. Teaching is the epitome of perpetual growth and Avila is responsible for solidifying that ideology in myself.”

According to Ellis, Ruelan Levin, Ph.D., faculty emerita, was a very influential member of his support system. “At one point in my Avila career, I volunteered to help Dr. Levin plant trees,” Ellis recalls. “Along the way, she shared stories of her many years teaching and we spoke of the impact teachers have on students’ lives and on the community. Sometime in between those conversations, I decided that teaching was something to which I could dedicate my life.” 🌳





Goppert Performing Arts Center



Culminating Avila's \$43 million Centennial Campaign, fundraising is underway for the Goppert Performing Arts Center, including a new black box theatre, classrooms and rehearsal space, an academic backstage and scene shop, critical music practice rooms and renovated lobby space. The Center will cost \$8 million, with a generous \$3.5 million lead gift contributed by Vita Goppert through her estate. Ms. Goppert was a generous patron of

the arts at Avila, longtime supporter and the first female lay board member for the University.

Avila's performing arts programs develop creativity and discipline in students to prepare them to stand out in any career. The expanded space will allow for continued program growth and increased community access to the arts. Contact the Advancement Office for more information at 816.501.2435 or advancement@avila.edu. 🎭



Journey to Rome

Performance grant leads to trip of a lifetime



*"... Being able to visit Vatican City during our centennial year is a true testament to Avila's Catholic identity."
— Judith Becker*

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to represent Avila at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, the epicenter of the Catholic faith, feels humbling for sophomore University Singer Judith Becker. Becker, who is very grateful to be attending Avila through a performance grant, is a south Kansas City, Mo. native, and stems from a strong Catholic upbringing. As a member of the 2016 Roma Corale (Avila University Singers), she and her peers will travel to Rome this June and perform not only in St. Peter's Basilica, but also travel throughout Italy performing concerts.

Becker says, "What I am most excited about the trip to Rome is to see Pope Francis. I believe that Pope Francis is the true successor of John Paul II."

At a similar age, Becker's mother visited Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina,

a popular Catholic pilgrimage. Hence, visiting a holy place like St. Peter's Basilica during Avila's centennial year feels like it was meant to be. Becker sees this opportunity as her "second chance" to see the world and be inspired, just as her mother did.

"What I love about being at Avila is being surrounded by a community of like-minded people who are compelled to make music. Being able to visit Vatican City during our centennial year is a true testament to Avila's Catholic identity," said Becker.

Join Judith and the 2016 Roma Corale on their inspirational journey to Rome this summer. Follow them on Facebook (Avila University Music Department) and Twitter (@avilamusic). 📸



Taking Theatre Design to New Heights

Eric Robertson '15, a budding theatre design and technology alumnus who recently graduated in December, participated in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (Region 5). He received a National Lighting Design Honorable Mention for his design work in Avila's *Man of La Mancha* theatre production. Robertson says, "Being associated with such a well-known festival such as the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival truly helps you elevate yourself as a designer."

Robertson heard about the festival from Avila's director of theatre design and technology and associate professor of theatre, Jason Harris. Eager to begin his design career, Robertson works as a general technician at Harvest Productions, Inc., a production company located in North Kansas City that specializes in audio visual solutions. He is looking forward to participating in commencement activities this May. 📸

Avila Graphic Design Brings Home the Gold

It was an unforgettable night for Avila graphic design at the Kansas City American Advertising Awards (formerly known as the ADDYs) on Saturday, February 20 at the Midland Theatre. Two of Avila's graphic design seniors swept the student category, earning the only student golds awarded; along with a 2011 graphic design alumni, who received the overall *Best of Show* award with his current studio.

Award winner, Ben Grace, a transfer student and Overland Park, Kan. native, received two awards, *Student Gold* and *Student Best of Show*, for his Design for Good branding project, "Canine Royale." Alexi Chadbourne, a transfer student from St. Louis, also earned *Student Gold* for her Design for Good project, "Bewilder."

Chadbourne said, "It was such an honor seeing something that I had put my (literal) blood, sweat and tears into hanging next to work created by the designers who inspire me. Avila's design program does a great job providing amazing opportunities like these for its students."

Immediately following the awards, both seniors were approached by graphic design professionals for networking and potential career opportunities.

"Avila's Art + Design department has greatly helped my growth as a designer. I've learned methods for creating effective

visual communication, and the importance of the voice behind brands. I've also been educated on the design and advertising industries in Kansas City," said Grace.

Equally exciting was the success of 2012 alumnus Roberto Camacho, a former Eagles soccer player. Camacho currently works at Whiskey Design, a small creative studio in Kansas City's Westside. His studio received the overall *Best of Show Award* for their work on the Boulevardia campaign.

According to Camacho, "The professors at Avila expected more than student-level work from their students. They had professional-level standards and inspired me to have the same for my projects. Their ongoing guidance, encouragement and professionalism prepared me to compete for jobs at the best design studios and work among the top creative minds in the industry."

Both student projects were completed in the fall AR 442 *Identity Design* course taught by Eric Winter, MFA, graphic design professor and chair of the Art + Design Department. Winter had nothing but rave reviews to share about his students.

"What makes Ben a great designer is his ability to combine conceptual thinking with artistic skill. He clearly has a gift for digital illustration," said Winter.



Ben is currently working as a creative intern at Blacktop Creative and will also be participating in Student Scholar Day on April 14.

"Alexi also has a unique perspective and defined style that really makes her work stand out. I'm excited to see what the future holds for these two talented individuals," said Winter. "Each time Avila has awards success, it reinforces the knowledge that our students are doing great work." 🏆

Top to bottom: Alexi Chadbourne, Ben Grace and Roberto Camacho '12.



“I am interested in offering myself to work at the UN, so that the voices of the marginalized, as well as the voices of those who deserve a better quality of life in the face of injustice and discrimination at various levels, may be addressed.”

– S. Justine Senapati, CSJ

Sister Justine on Justice

Centers Host UN-NGO Representative as Part of National Catholic Sisters Week and National Women’s History Month

The United Nations non-governmental organization (NGO) representative for the global CSJ community, S. Justine Senapati, CSJ, visited Avila on March 8 to foster a dialogue with students and the community regarding the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and the Sisters of St. Joseph’s call-to-action for peace and justice. Her visit was made possible by a grant from the Association of Colleges of Sisters of St. Joseph.

As a part of her visit, Senapati, who also addresses issues of migration and agriculture, visited New Roots for Refugees, a partnership with Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas and Cultivate Kansas City, where Nepali and Burmese farmers are given a chance to create a livelihood for their families, establish independence and move towards systemic justice. S. Justine also met with affiliate faculty of Avila’s Center for Global Studies and Social Justice to learn more about global issues at a local level.

S. Justine, a Sister of St. Joseph of Annecy from Bhubaneswar, India, joined the congregation in 1992 and began her ministry as a teacher. After a personal brush with violence and caste inequality,

she discovered her calling. She assumed the position of the Congregations of St. Joseph United Nations NGO representative in August 2014. S. Justine said, “I am interested in offering myself to work at the UN, so that the voices of the marginalized, as well as the voices of those who deserve a better quality of life in the face of injustice and discrimination at various levels, may be addressed.”

Director for the Center for Global Studies and Social Justice and Associate Professor of Philosophy, Ken Parsons, Ph.D., said, “We were excited to host Sister Justine because of the role that she plays in justice and peace at a global level. It was a great opportunity for our students to be a voice for youth on issues of sustainable development.”



S. Justine Senapati, CSJ, pictured with her fellow sisters from Kansas City.



An Intercultural Curriculum with Global Reach

Avila Professors Co-Develop a Unifying Curriculum for Thousands of Sisters Across the Globe.

In 2013, Patty Johnson, CSJ, executive director of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, collaborated with Carol Coburn, Ph.D., director of Avila's CSJ Center for Heritage, Spirituality and Service to make Avila University the home of the U.S. Federation archives. A year later, Ken Parsons, Ph.D., director of the Center for Global Studies and Social Justice, met S. Patty at a gathering of sisters and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives at the United Nations. From these collaborations, it was clear that Avila wanted to become an academic partner with the U.S. Federation in a meaningful way. The opportunity came when the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation awarded the Federation an \$830,000 grant to develop a curriculum in cultural diversity and conflict management.

Coburn and Parsons were asked to collaborate as academic partners to develop and evaluate a cultural diversity and conflict management curriculum that is culturally sensitive and easy to use by religious congregations and non-profit organizations across the globe. The curriculum will be taught to 125 sisters in Le Puy, France, over the next three years.

Using a "train the trainer" model, each sister will then journey back to their homes across five continents and teach additional sisters. In total, the goal is for more than 5,000 sisters across the globe to participate, which is about half of the total number of CSJs in the world.

"This has been an exciting opportunity for us," said Coburn. "We traveled to Le Puy in October 2015 with the design team to develop the curriculum. This project is necessary because there are more women becoming sisters in Africa and Asia than in North America. When women enter religious life, they may end up living in community with other sisters from warring tribes."

As a result, the curriculum is being developed in five languages and emphasizes non-violent communication, critical engagement with difference, and empathetic understanding across diverse communities.

Coburn and Parsons are also part of the formal evaluation team to demonstrate the goals, evidence and results of the project. In addition to observing the courses in Le Puy, they plan to observe some of the trained sisters teach the

course in their own communities. Their hope is that after the final evaluation, the curriculum can be further used across the world.

"The mission behind this curriculum may extend far beyond the Sisters of St. Joseph," said Parsons. "The hope is that the curriculum is deployable to other religious communities and NGOs. Ultimately, we want to impact the relationship between religious communities and NGOs at the United Nations working together on the Sustainable Development Goals."

The significance of this global project is not lost on Coburn and Parsons.

"For this project to be at the global level is experimental, unique and significant," said Coburn. "We are honored to be a part of something so meaningful." 🌍



Ken Parsons, Ph.D., works with sisters on the design team in Le Puy, France.

Alumna Answers the Call for Social Justice



Thirty-five years ago, four American churchwomen, Archbishop Oscar Romero and six Jesuit priests were murdered during the height of the civil war in El Salvador, which was responsible for the deaths of more than 75,000 civilians. Last November, approximately 120 people from several different countries traveled to villages and sites in El Salvador to commemorate the legacy of those who died and remind the world of this tragedy. Among the delegation was Avila alumna Alice Kitchen '67.

"As I look back on this journey along the path of the American churchwomen, I have a deep sense of sorrow," said Kitchen. "As I reflect on the horrific actions perpetrated on the people of El Salvador and supported by my government, I know I will not forget what I saw, what I heard, and what I observed firsthand. It is forever etched in my memory. I trust it will move me, and others, to action."

Kitchen graduated from Avila with a degree in sociology and was known as


S. Irene Laughlin, SSS. She went on to complete her Master of Social Work from the University of California at Los Angeles and Master of Public Administration from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. She was a social work instructor for the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare and is now at the UMKC School of Social Work. During her more than two decades at Children's Mercy as a director of Social Work and Community Services, Kitchen organized efforts to find funding for specialized treatments needed by children with atypical medical problems and worked on programs to help young mothers get off drugs.

Kitchen is one of the founding members of Amethyst Place for women and families recovering from drugs and alcohol and the Child Protection Center in Jackson County, Mo. She is also a board member of the Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance and a trustee with the Jackson County Mental Health Tax Fund.

Kitchen was recognized as the 2015 World Citizen of the Year and received the UN Mayor's Award from the United Nations, Kansas City Chapter. She has been a co-member of the Loretto Community since 2005. As a board member of NETWORK, a national Catholic social justice lobby based in Washington, D.C., she recently organized and participated in the local stop of the *Nuns on the Bus 2015*:



Bridge the Divides, Transform Politics tour, which made a stop in Kansas City on September 11, 2015. Kitchen is a strong advocate for fair working wages for fast food workers, home care workers, and faculty members and works tirelessly to address issues of immigration and undocumented workers. She was also active in the passage of Kansas and Missouri legislation on health insurance coverage for midlife women.

When asked why she chose social work for her career, Kitchen says, "It was always a good fit for me. Social work strives to address issues systemically, as opposed to putting a bandage on the symptom of the problem." 

(Top left, from left to right) Gail James, co-chair of Women's Equality Coalition, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, Missouri 5th Congressional District, and Alice Kitchen, MSW, MPA, accepting the 2015 World Citizen of the Year award.

(Top right, from left to right) Dana W., a member of the Fannie Lou Hamer, STAND UP KC fast food workers movement, and Alice Kitchen, Worker Rights Board of Jobs with Justice.

Where Education Meets Inspiration



Jasmine Colhour, Avila senior (right), and friend take a selfie in front of the Berlin Cathedral.

Avila senior Jasmine Colhour has been deeply involved in campus ministry since her freshman year. She fully embraced the idea of serving those around her. In addition to working toward a degree in accounting with a minor in women's and gender studies, Colhour is a spirituality pillar leader, retreat leader and a Sacristan. But she hadn't truly grasped the concept of a unified global community until she took a course through the Center for Global Studies and Social Justice last semester.

Music and Politics is a faculty-led travel course to Germany that Colhour took in the fall. Students had the opportunity to experience the politics of music through a 10-day exploration of Kreuzberg, one of the most politically diverse neighborhoods in Berlin. Letting students learn through visceral, firsthand experiences helps students gain insight into outside perspectives. That worldview is critical to Avila's mission.

Director of University Mission and Ministry, David Armstrong, CSJA,

explains, "A big part of who we are and what we value as a University is diversity. Anytime that we can immerse our students into another culture, we are fulfilling our mission."

Immersion opportunities don't always require a plane ticket or passport. Colhour has utilized Avila's Office of Ministry, Spirituality and Action to find service opportunities in Kansas City.

"A lot of the time we are going into the inner-city to do service," Colhour said. "If those service opportunities were not there, students might not necessarily go and immerse themselves or be aware of the different obstacles that other people face within the city."

For Colhour, who will graduate in May 2016, Avila's day of service, Dear Neighbor Day, will always be her most gratifying campus ministry experience.

"Seeing all the different people who come together and go out into the city to do service is just amazing," she said.

Colhour has already accepted a full-time job offer with Keybank Real Estate Capital, and will begin work after graduation. She also plans on starting Avila's MBA program this summer to prepare for the CPA exam. But her time in Germany redefined some of her ambitions.

"My travel course experience has definitely given me the urge to travel more to see and understand more cultures," she said. "My campus ministry experience has instilled in me the desire to give back to my community." 🌍

Upcoming Alumni Events

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

SOCCER ALUMNI REUNION

Mark your calendar for the Soccer Alumni Game and first-ever Foot Golf Tournament hosted by the Avila Alumni Association. Friday night, May 6, the Alumni Association is holding the foot golf event at Heart of America Golf Course in Swope Park. Teams of five will compete for prizes and bragging rights. Saturday, head to campus for lunch and the annual alumni games beginning at noon. Contact Hannah Meador for additional details or questions at alumni.events@avila.edu or 816.501.3613.

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

2ND ANNUAL FOOTBALL REUNION

All former football players are invited back to campus for the 2nd Annual Alumni Flag Football Game. The alumni game begins at 10 a.m., followed by the current team's spring scrimmage at 11 a.m. Bring your families and stay for lunch. Lunch is \$5 per person (for anyone 12 and older). Contact Hannah Meador with questions or to sign-up at alumni.events@avila.edu or 816.501.3613

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016

ALUMNI AT LAST BASH

Martin City Brewing Company Pub, 5:30 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate and welcome the newest alumni to the Alumni Association. Congratulations, Class of 2016! Appetizers will be provided. For questions, contact Hannah Meador at alumni.events@avila.edu or 816.501.3613.

MAY 22-30, 2016

CENTENNIAL TRIP

More than 20 Avila alumni, faculty, staff and friends will be taking a trip of a lifetime and a journey to celebrate Avila University's centennial. The group will visit Le Puy, France, where the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet formed in the 17th Century, as well as Paris and Lyon.

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 2, 2016

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Reconnect, reminisce and reflect on your college days during Homecoming Weekend 2016. We are honoring classes ending in "6" and "1," and celebrating our 100-year history. The weekend includes Eagles Athletics events, theatre performances, Alumni Awards and more. Mark your calendar and plan to attend one or many of the events. Watch your mail, email and social media for additional details.



DECEMBER 28, 2016 - JANUARY 7, 2017

ALUMNI TRIP TO INDIA

Journey to India this winter to celebrate New Year's 2016-2017 and explore one of the world's oldest civilizations and largest democracies. Dr. Francis Origanti (social work) and Dr. Kelly Minerva (literature) invite you to join them on their trip from December 28, 2016, through January 7, 2017. We will ring in the New Year in Delhi, one of India's oldest and biggest cities; visit the Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the modern world; learn from social workers in Chennai, who serve India's disenfranchised communities; learn to read and understand the stories from India from a new perspective; relax in seaside Pondicherry and explore India's French-colonial influences. Daily reflection sessions and faculty-led discussions will help you understand India, as well as the experiences undergraduates gain from Avila's Interdisciplinary Studies travel courses. For more information, please contact Bailey Carr, Director of Alumni Relations, at bailey.carr@avila.edu or 816.501.3780.

CALL FOR ALUMNI AWARDS

Do you know an outstanding Avila classmate or alumni? Email Bailey Carr, director of alumni relations and annual fund, at bailey.carr@avila.edu, to nominate them for one of the annual Alumni Awards presented at Homecoming. There are numerous categories, including Outstanding Alumni and Alumni Service Award. Nominations are due June 1, 2016.



Voices Avila's Social Network

"So thankful for the opportunities @Avila University gives me"
@SarBear_1130, Twitter

"Thank you, Avila University, for the honor of hosting the 40th Annual Steer Dinner and Auction. Congratulations on 100 years for Avila and raising more than \$1.1 million for student scholarships!"
Matt Flener KMBC, Facebook

"DeMarquice signed his Letter of Intent – heading to @AvilaUniversity in the fall! @KauffmanKSI #ReachHigher"
@KSI_MHiggins, Twitter

"Learn how a new statue on the @AvilaUniversity campus is inspiring the next generation of #KC leaders..."
@countryclubbank, Twitter

Alumni Events

Cheer & Dance Reunion and National Send-Off ►

Pictured: Amanda (Thompson)

DuMers '07 and daughter,

Rosemary Wiggins '08, '13 and

Dacia (Whalon) Ayers '10



Mentor Workshop

The Alumni Office, along with Student Life, launched a new mentoring program in October 2015. This new initiative aims to connect current students with alumni in their future industry. Mentors provide guidance with resumes and interview tips, and offer career advice. The two departments hosted a mentor workshop where current students had the opportunity to meet alumni and potential mentors. If you would like more information about becoming a mentor to current students, contact Bailey Carr, director of alumni relations and annual fund, at 816.501.3780 or bailey.carr@avila.edu. 📧



▲ Basketball Reunion

Pictured: Austin Stockard '13, Tommy Cochran '11 and Quinton Branch '13

In December, alumni from the men's and women's basketball programs returned to campus to cheer on the current teams against Central Methodist. A reception was held for alumni to meet the current players and coaches and reconnect with one another. Alumni brought their families and reminisced with former teammates and fellow alumni. 📸



Alumni from the cheer and dance teams came to campus in January for a reunion. They were treated to a performance by both current teams preparing for national competition in Orlando, Fla. A reception was held afterwards for alumni to reconnect and meet the current dancers and cheerleaders. 📸



▲ **Basketball Reunion** Pictured: Back Row (L to R) Ashley (Townsend) Hardwick '09, Alyson (Young) Hooten '11, Sherri Miller '99, Jessica Pankey '99, Kari (Donnell) Clevenger '00, '06, Amy (Hamm) Schleicher '97, Torie Murillo '14, Emily Hoskins '09, Front Row: Liz Vollmer '10, Brittany Townsend '13, Mary Blevins '03



Wine 101

The Alumni Association hosted the 2nd Annual Wine 101 in November 2015. Alumni learned about and sampled a variety of wines. Isaiah Hultman '99 and Dan Daily '83 of Glazer's sponsored this free event and representative Alexis Ganter, shared his extensive knowledge of wineries, wine and wine tasting. 📸

Pictured above: Richard Bronaugh and wife, Deanne Bronaugh '74, enjoy the wine and food at the Wine 101 event.



Many alumni, family and friends enjoyed the buffet prepared by Great Western Dining.



Mark your calendars for next
year's Steer Dinner & Auction:
February 18, 2017.

\$1.17 Million Raised at Steer Dinner

In its centennial year, the University raised more than \$1.17 million for student scholarships at the 40th annual Steer Dinner and Auction on Saturday, February 6, 2016. This year's Steer Dinner honored the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet for their 150 year impact on Kansas City and founding St. Teresa's College, now Avila University. Led by the Steer Dinner Anniversary Chairs, representing eight decades of alumni, more than 670 guests celebrated, contributed and danced the night away at the Downtown Marriott Muehlebach Hotel. The evening included a silent and live auction, dinner and an after party with a photo booth and live music from the Saucy Jack Band.

Steer Dinner Anniversary Chairs ►

Back row: Mark Thompson, Board of Trustee member, Patricia Lyon '00, Bob '78, Board of Trustees member, and Pat '79 Hardin, President Ron Slepitz, Cassi '05, Alumni Board member, and Kevin '05 Furderer, Jessica and Matthew '12 Brandmeyer

Front row: Amy Thompson, Christine Ojile '82, Board of Trustees member, Ana Valdez '96, Board of Trustees member, Carol Jean DeFeo '68, Alumni Board member, First Lady Suzanne Slepitz, Virginia '58, Board of Counselors member, and Tom Coppinger





◀ Avila scholarship recipient

JJ Russell, Avila junior, psychology major, football player and student scholarship recipient, shared the story of his Avila experience, and what a difference scholarships have made in his life.

▼ A toast to the sisters

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet celebrating Avila University's 100th anniversary and 150 years of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Kansas City with a champagne toast.



Back row: Leon Jones,
First Lady Suzanne and President
Ron Slepitz, Michelle and Bob Hunter,
Board of Trustees member

Front row: Jean '76 and Bill Buchanan,
Jeanne Hamilton Olofson '92, '94, '11,
Board of Trustees member,
Cathryn Pridal, Vice President of
Academic Affairs, and George Smith



Back row: Robert Bishop,
Robert Sweeney, Brigid Reisch,
Megan McDoughna,
Jessica Brandmeyer, Christy Bishop

Front row: Jeanne Brandmeyer,
Lynne Beaver, Matthew Brandmeyer '12,
Mark Reisch



Shattering School Records

Sedrick Johnson, Eagles Senior,
has a Historic Career at Avila.



"The scholarships I have received at Avila have helped me towards my goal of getting my degree while having the opportunity to play basketball."
— Sedrick Johnson, senior

Check out your Eagles
on Avila's athletic website at
AVILAATHLETICS.COM

Senior kinesiology student athlete and Bill Waris Endowed Scholarship recipient, Sedrick Johnson, has dominated the hardwood for the Eagles men's basketball team. On January 23, he became the first Eagle to reach 2,000 points in a career. Johnson entered the game needing nine points, but finished the game with 36 to help the Eagles knock off William Penn, 89-74.

Johnson ended his historic career with a total of 2,258 points. As the only senior on the team to play his entire career with the Eagles, he also racked up 629 rebounds, 506 assists and 278 steals. Johnson, a three-time All-Heart of America player, led the nation in steals, and was second in scoring. He was also named Defensive Player of the Year in the conference and was awarded the Men's Eagle of the Month Award five times.

"The scholarships I have received at Avila have helped me towards my goal of getting my degree while having the opportunity to play basketball," Johnson said. "My goal in life is to play basketball professionally and then become a personal trainer." 🏀

Eagles Football Welcomes NFL Record Holder and Alumnus

Avila Welcomes Two Incredible New Football Coaches



Derrick Alexander played four seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs from 1998-2001 and is still currently the Chiefs' record holder for most receiving yards in a season with 1,391 yards in 2000.

Originally from Detroit, Alexander played wide-receiver at the University of Michigan and was a first round draft choice of the Cleveland Browns in the 1994

draft. He played a total of nine seasons in the NFL. Alexander says, "After coming to Kansas City in 1998 to play for the Chiefs, I never left. I have been here 18 years and I consider this my home. When I decided to become a coach I wanted to stay in the area. Avila is building a great football program under Coach Berna and after meeting with him, I knew this would be the best fit for me. I believe that I can make a difference."



Chance Alberswerth '13, a Higginsville, Mo. native, played defensive line and linebacker at Avila and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business education. During his time at Avila, he was named a three time NAIA scholar athlete. Alberswerth received his master's degree in physical education in December 2015 from Hastings College in Neb., where he also coached the defensive line. Alberswerth says, "I wanted to coach at Avila so that I could come back to my alma mater and help build tradition. Continuing to build our program was a goal of mine as a player and it is an honor to work towards the same goals now as a coach."

Mark your calendar to watch Coach Alexander and Coach Alberswerth in action at the Eagles football home opener on August 27, 2016 vs. Graceland, which will also be televised. 📺

Avila Cheer and Dance Make It a Three-Peat in Heart of America Spirit Squad Championship

Congratulations to our outstanding Avila cheer and dance teams for winning their third straight Heart of America Athletic Conference Spirit Squad Championship. Overall, Avila took home first place in both Small Dance and All-Girl Cheer, with the dance team winning the overall Dance Championship and cheer finishing 2nd place overall, making them the Overall Spirit Squad Champion for the third straight year! 🏆





'10 TERRA NICHOLS welcomed her first child on January 28, six weeks early. Her daughter had to spend 16 days in the NICU but is now home at four pounds and growing.

'64 KATHLEEN (HEGARTY) THORNE was presented with an Excellence in Community Service award by the national organization of the Daughters of the American Revolution for her latest book, "Here Lie the Boys in Blue and Gray," a history of all Civil War veterans buried in the Friends Cemetery in Newberg, Ore. Newberg, which was a very small community during the late 1800s, is the final resting place for more than 100 veterans. A ceremony to honor them and to introduce her book was conducted in April 2015 on the 150th anniversary of the signing of the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.



'78, '83

JULIE (VIENHAGE) WEISS is now serving as Manager of the Office of Research Integrity in the Post Approval Monitoring Program at Children's Mercy Hospital.

'80 REED ALBERG, a longtime supporter and volunteer of Non-profit Connect, has recently accepted the position as Office Manager with the organization.

'81 THERESA MARIE REIGELSBERGER DAVIS and her husband, Dick, are both retired and enjoy their time at home on their farm and traveling to visit kids and grandchildren in Neb. and Fla. They

also enjoy vacations to exotic places, most recently a 12-day cruise on the Mediterranean. Dick is a retired public school superintendent and has retired from several other jobs, most recently as the principal at the Catholic school in Marceline. Theresa and Dick are faithful donors to Avila University.

'82 KAY (TURGEON) JULIAN recently joined Avila University's Board of Trustees. She was formally a member of the Board of Counselors.

'84 MEREDITH (THOMPSON) SHELLNER is now serving as President for the Infection Prevention Consulting, LLC in Kansas City, Mo.

'87 CONNIE HAWORTH was recently appointed to serve as Executive Director for The Fountains at Washington House in Alexandria, Va. The retirement community is home to some 200 Alexandria seniors. Haworth started her career with Fountains (Watermark) Retirement Communities in 1998. In addition to her experience in regional operating roles, she has more than a decade's worth of experience as Administrator and Executive Director of large assisted living and continuing care retirement communities in Mo. and Texas.

'92 WALTER BRANDES appeared on network TV as Jim Vance on the television series "Blood Feuds" on the American Heroes Channel (AHC).

'92 EARL BAKER JR. recently performed in the play

"Pericles" by William Shakespeare on the Samuel Scripps mainstage in New York.



'93 BRENETTA UNDERWOOD recently became the Director of Education at Vatterot College in St. Louis.

'94 KATHIE FINESTEAD recently accepted the position of Implementation Manager at Unified Physician Management in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas area.

'99 JESSICA DAWN PANKEY received the DAISY Award for Nursing. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System. The DAISY Award was established by the DAISY Foundation in memory of J. Patrick Barnes who died at 33 of ITP, an auto-immune disease. The Barnes family was awestruck by the clinical skills, caring and compassion of the nurses who cared for Patrick, so they created this national award to say thank you to nurses everywhere.

'00 TRICIA DALY LYON served as the Ambiance Committee Chair for the 40th annual Steer Dinner and Auction.

'00 MELISSA VILLANUEVA recently accepted a position as Organizational Development Specialist with YRC Freight based in Kansas City, Mo.



'10 EMILEE (BILYEU) REHLING *married*
Jon Rehling on October 7, 2016. The couple
resides in Kansas City, Mo. Emilee recently accepted
a new position with Armed Forces Insurance as their
Marketing Manager.

'05 CASSI (KLINE) FURDERER
served as Chair for the
40th annual Steer Dinner Silent
Auction Committee.

'06 CASEY (JONES) OLSON
welcomed twins in 2015,
Stella and Sawyer Olson.

'06 BRANDI (WILLIAMS) RIGGS
recently accepted a position
with McCownGordon Construction as
the Talent Acquisition and Retention
Manager.

'08 BRIDGET JOHNSON recently
accepted a position as Market-
ing Program Coordinator with Optiv in
Denver.

'08 JILL (SELLS) ENGLE and
husband, Matt, welcomed
their first child in November 2015.

'09 MICHAEL STOLBERG volun-
teered to design sound for
Avila University's production, "Night
of the Living Dead."

'09 MICHELE WATLEY recently
became the National African
American Outreach Political Director
for the Bernie Sanders 2016 campaign.
She is charged with working with spe-
cific constituency groups within the Af-
rican American community to organize
their involvement with the campaign
by building relationships with the
existing organizations that represent
these identified communities. She also
has been asked to build relationships
with the African American press outlets
across the U.S., communicating with

the media as a spokesperson, setting
up interviews and identifying media
opportunities for the campaign.

'09 ANN CHRISMAN recently
became engaged to Tyler
Terry. The couple is planning a 2017
spring wedding.

'09,'14
MAX HASSELQUIST and wife Hannah
welcomed their first child, Monroe
Elizabeth, on March 1, 2016. Max is a
music teacher at Prairie Center Elemen-
tary in the Olathe School District.

'09 NICK WARD BOPP recently
accepted the position of
MakerSpace Facilitator at the Johnson
County Library. Ward Bopp was also
recently featured on KCUR for Maker
Village KC where he is co-owner and
founder. Maker Village KC will be
Kansas City's newest "maker space,"
part of a growing phenomenon that
creates work areas - often including
tools and instruction - for those who
want to do innovative things through
the very old-fashioned activity of
making things with their hands.

'09 JEREMEY ARBISO recently
became engaged to Natalie
Pemberton.

'09 EMILY HOSKINS recently
moved to Silverthorne, Co.,
and is currently working as a Customer
Services Representative with Bank
of the West.

'09 ALICE (FLANAGAN) SPILLER
married Ryan Spiller on
October 2, 2015.

'10 JENNIFER (SOSNA) GARCIA
and husband Jesse Garcia '09
welcomed their first daughter,
Brooklyn, on December 5, 2015.
Brooklyn weighed nine pounds.

'10 KORY BARRETT is now serving
as the Director of Central
Operations at Saint Luke's Health
System in Kansas City.

'10 DACIA (WHALON) AYERS
married Matthew Ayers on
October 16, 2015. The couple resides
in Kansas City, Mo.

'10
BANEN
(CHANEY)
ROYER
married



Jason Royer in the summer of 2015.
Current professor, Cliff Kroski, and his
wife, Janet Sunderland, former profes-
sor at Avila, were the officiants for the
wedding. The couple lives in Kansas
City, Mo., and Banen is currently the
head cheer coach at Mid-America
Nazarene University.

'10 ASHLEY RATLIFF and Geoffrey
Gahn '12 were married in
February in Hawaii. The couple resides
in Kansas City, Kan.

'10 CARLY (JORDAN) SMITH and
husband Chad welcomed their
first child in September 2015.



'10 XANDA (PILLEY) WEISS AND '12 WIL ANDREWS-WEISS were engaged on Christmas Eve of 2014 and married on January 16, 2016. Xanda works as the Box Office Manager for Avila University and Stage Manager for Theatre for Young America. Wil works as the Drama Director for Lutheran High School in Kansas City and actor and teacher for Theatre for Young America.

'11 JAKE ZINN recently moved to Lee's Summit, Mo., with his family. With wife Sydney, they have two sons. Jake currently works with MobileUp.

'11 DESHAI TURNER is now serving as the Associate Communications Specialist at United-Health Group in Kansas City, Mo.

'11 ALYSON (YOUNG) HOOTEN received the Filbert Five Award through the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in December 2015. The Filbert Five Award has been established to recognize individuals who exhibited outstanding talent or made significant contributions at the high school, collegiate, amateur or professional levels in the sport of basketball. It is named for Missouri Sports Legend Gary Filbert.

'11 DIANE (DORNHOFFER) CAIN married Andrew Cain in July 2015. The couple lives in Kansas City, Mo., and Diane works as a Clinical Assistant at Quintiles.

'12 TINA AMARO recently accepted the position of School Counselor at Visitation Catholic School.

'12 CHANTELL GARRETT was asked to serve on the Women in the City panel hosted by UMKC's Women's Center in October. She was asked questions about her individual career and provided current students with life advice.

'12 ELLEN BARNES is now a Seva franchise business owner. Her first Seva Beauty location will open this May in the Northland, with a second to follow in Lee's Summit, Mo., in 2017.

'13 SAUDIA KHALIFAH and husband welcomed their third child, Nourhondo, on October 7, 2015. He joins two big sisters.

'13 CHANCE ALBERSWERTH returns to Avila University as a member of the football coaching staff. Chance has spent the last two years as a graduate assistant at Hastings College in Hastings, Neb.

'13 NICKY BROCK accepted a new position with Worlds of Fun as the Human Resources Recruiter.

'14 MELISSA SEABAUGH recently accepted the position as reader clerk for the Kansas Senate for this spring term. She is also serving as study group leader for the incoming students at Washburn University, and she is the representatives for Barbri (one of the bar prep programs) at Washburn.

'14 CELESTE GREENLEE recently accepted the position of Executive Director with the Junior League of Kansas City, Mo.

'14 KAITLIN GOULD is heading to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in the United Kingdom this August with two new original pieces, one she produced and one she partially wrote.

'15 MELISSA BIFFLE ISAACS is now serving as Development Director with Exodus Cry located in Grandview, Mo.

'15 LISA RAMSEY accepted a new position as General Manager at AutoStart USA.

'15 ANDREA BLUHM and husband Randy welcomed their first child, Graham Robert, on January 23, 2016. The couple live in St. Louis.



Stay Connected

We want to hear from you! Job promotion, new baby, recent travels, new home? Let us know so we can share your good news! Email your news to alumni@avila.edu or complete the **What's New With You** form at avila.edu/alumni.

AVILA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Est. 1916

In Memoriam

'38 LAURELLE O'LEARY passed away on February 2, 2016. Laurelle was a graduate of St. Teresa's College. Laurelle was a kindergarten teacher for the Kansas City, Mo., public schools, and then served as a social worker at the Alfred Benjamin Clinic. In the late 1950s, she set out on an adventure, working for the Department of Defense American Schools in Dreux, France, and Wiesbaden, Germany.

'40 LARUE KEMP MANGELLY, passed away December 14, 2015. LaRue graduated from the College of St. Teresa, with a degree in General Studies. She went on to graduate in dietetics from Fontbonne University in St. Louis.

'47 KATHLEEN KARNES ADAMS passed away August 20, 2014. Judith earned her Bachelor of Arts in speech/theatre from the College of St. Teresa.

'48 MARY GARIES passed away October 13, 2015. Mary received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the College of St. Teresa. She went on to receive her Master's degree in social work at Saint Louis University. She had a long career as a social worker, retiring from Children's Mercy Hospital as a psychiatric social worker.

'52 THERESE SCHORGL POWELL passed away October 27, 2015. Therese graduated high school from St. Teresa's Academy and attended the College of St. Teresa.

'56 LILLIAN "PADDY" FLANARY MCCLOSKEY passed away October 20, 2015. Paddy attended the College of St. Teresa.

'56 MARY LOU LAMBERT passed January 27, 2016. Mary Lou graduated from St. Teresa's Academy and College of St. Teresa, with her bachelor's in biology.

'59 SUSAN "SUZIE" ROSS BINGOLD passed away February 19, 2015, in Mesa, Ariz. Suzie attended the College of St. Teresa.

'61 MARILYN PETERS QUINN died October 21, 2015. Marilyn attended the College of St. Teresa.

'63 ANTOINETTE (TONI) MAURIN CONROY passed away February 26, 2016. Toni graduated from Avila College with her bachelor of arts in theatre.

'68 MARY CONRY passed away December 7, 2015. She was a registered nurse with a diploma from St. Catherine's Hospital in Omaha, Neb., now Creighton University School of Nursing. Mary completed her bachelor's in nursing at Avila College and began her career at St. Joseph Hospital in Kansas City, Mo. Mary was a founding member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church and was actively involved as a Eucharistic minister, a member of the Small Faith Community and Spirit Movers.

'69 JEANEANE JONES RAAB passed away January 18, 2016. Jeaneane received her bachelor's degree in special education from Avila College.

'80 MARTHA "MARTI" NORRIS ZARKOWER passed away on November 26, 2015. Marti completed her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Avila College.

'83 GERALD FORTNEY passed away January 6, 2016. While working at the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, Jerry attained a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice from Avila College.

'91 JOYCE ROLSTON MAURER passed away December 11, 2015. Joyce received her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Avila College.

'95 TRAVIS RUSSELL passed away March 1, 2016. Travis received his bachelor of arts in theatre from Avila College. His wife, Meghan (Harris) Russell, is also a 1995 graduate of Avila College. For the past 16 years, Travis has been serving in many capacities as a Law Enforcement Officer in Trinidad, Co.

'00 PAMELA FOTI passed away October 12, 2015. Pam received her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Avila College.

'11 LAURA HARPER WILLIAMSON passed away on January 25, 2016. Laura earned her Master of Science degree in organizational development psychology from Avila University.

TERESA LOCH passed away February 17, 2016 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Teresa was an office assistant in the psychology department at Avila University for many years and an Associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

MARK STUBBS, former Avila University adjunct professor, passed away October 16, 2015. Mark taught various classes in the Hartsook Institute for Fundraising.

*To make a gift in memory of your classmate or friend,
please visit avila.edu/give or call 816.501.3602.*

In Memoriam



KAREN BUNDY COX, a beloved member of the Avila family and faithful member of the Sisters of St. Joseph Associate program, passed away January 10, 2016. Karen Cox joined Avila University's School of Education team in August 2001. In her early years at Avila, she served as the student teaching administrative assistant. Later, her position was expanded to include support of all field-based and clinical experiences. Because Karen was blessed with the gift of hospitality, she was selected by School of Education faculty and staff to serve as "hospitality liaison" to internal and external audiences. She reached out to students and faculty in times of illness or need as well as in times of joy and celebration. Karen followed her faith as an Associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph, serving her dear neighbors without distinction. Both of Karen's children, Jamie Young Cox '02 and Jeremy Cox '05, graduated with their bachelor's degrees from Avila University. Karen will be remembered and dearly missed.

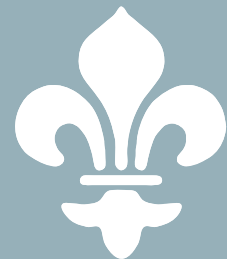


NORMA LEE (LEWIS) LAVIK '58, nursing alumna and former dean of the School of Nursing, passed away November 12, 2015. Norma was passionate about education. She received her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Avila College in 1958. She completed her Master of Science in nursing from the University of Colorado in 1964, and went on to receive her Ph.D. in adult education from Kansas State University in 1983.

In 1964, Norma joined the faculty at Avila College, now Avila University, and in 1967 was appointed Chairperson of the Department of Nursing. Under her leadership, the Avila nursing program grew to an enrollment of more than 450 students. She also developed the area's first RN Completion Program. Norma received the Avila Medal of Honor for her many contributions to nursing education, and the Education Award by the National Home Care Association. Norma will be deeply missed by her Avila family.



Norma Lee Lewis teaching her nursing students in the 1960s.





From left to right: Paul Toler, Carly Toler, Landon Toler, Lisa Toler and Jacob Toler

Avila Heritage

Just a few months after taking the position of Avila's Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services in June 2015, **Paul Toler** knew he wanted to make a difference beyond his annual support to Avila. He made a bequest to Avila University in his will.

"Very quickly after coming to Avila the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet resonated with my wife, Lisa, and me in terms of serving the dear neighbor without distinction and the recognition that all individuals have value. We thought these values were worth investing in personally."

Before working at Avila, Toler served as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance at the University of Missouri. "I was there for nearly 20 years but never made this kind of commitment. For me, Avila's mission is what made a difference, and I'm very grateful to be here. I appreciate the importance of estate gifts in helping to create a strong financial future for a small private institution like us."

Paul and Lisa were inducted into the Heritage Society during Homecoming last year. Toler is motivated to support Avila because of the large percentage of first-generation students and other students who are in need of financial assistance. By helping them achieve their dream of a college education, Toler says he's also interested in stimulating a ripple effect – influencing the students' immediate family, future generations and the community at large.

"Avila is creative in helping people realize ways they can achieve their personal goals and, in turn, grow to support this great University. I want to set the example that anyone can give back." 🙏

Securing Avila's Heritage

The Heritage Society was established in 1988 to recognize the remarkable contributions of Avila alumni and friends who have made provisions in their estate plans or lifetime planned gifts to support the future needs of the University. Such provisions may include:

- Bequests through wills and trusts
- Charitable remainder or lead trusts
- Appreciated securities
- Real estate and life estates in homes
- Gift annuities
- Life insurance policies

To find out more about joining Avila's Heritage Society or the gift vehicles above, please contact Chris Neher, director of major gifts, at 816.501.3696 or Chris.Neher@avila.edu.



100 STRONG:

A CENTURY OF INSPIRATION

HOMECOMING 2016

September 29 - October 2

Be sure to be
kept in the loop
with all of the
Homecoming
activities by
updating your
email address
with the
Alumni Office at
alumni@avila.edu.

Alumni from the College of St. Teresa, Avila College and Avila University are invited to campus to help us celebrate 100 years! The classes of **1966**, **1991** and **2006** will be celebrating their **50th**, **25th** and **10th** reunions. Special invitations to previous Medal of Honor and Alumni Award recipients, Athletics Hall of Fame members, Geer Cup winners and Homecoming Court alumni will be extended.